

## Agriculture - 1920

Alabama

Condition of  
CORPORATION FARMING IN THE  
BLACK BELT

Henry Ford, in his new book, is said to on lands west of the Mississippi with less cost an appropriation of \$12,000,000 for experiments. This cotton is freer from the boll weevil and mental farm colonies in six Southern states. The increasing production in the West is making it more difficult for the Southern farmer to get money for his crop. actual settlers on terms not longer than 4 years, with interest on deferred payments at 4 per cent. For permanent improvements, the

We should at least like to see it tried tensive rather than intensive. government may lend 60 per cent of the value on a grand scale here in the Black Belt. Absentee ownership—In Georgia, 66.6 per cent of the improvements, provided the amount of Alabama. The Black Belt is an ideal with 5.6 per cent in New England; 15.8 per cent in 56 annual installments at 3 per cent country in which to demonstrate the feasibility in the Middle Atlantic states; 26 per cent of the sum advanced. \* \* \* \* \*  
ability of large-scale agricultural operations for the East North Central and 37.8 for the West South Central. Tenancy is increasing. It is the purpose of the measure to create a model community, complete in its marketing, in the South, where a large percentage of the tenants are Negroes, "many of whom have facilities, in its social necessities and an impression being idle and going to waste; and most been trained for only growing cotton and despiration to farmers through each state in of it is close enough to markets. More not easily lend themselves to diversification which one is located. The committee says that over, the Black Belt lends itself to machine or scientific agriculture." \* \* \* agricultural colleges are doing a great deal but they are not able to reach the farmer who farming. Drift of population from the land—Between's steeped in poverty and unable to formulate

# Rescuing The Rural Gentry

A study of farming conditions in the South, more than any other state, having 20 per cent fewer farmers in five years; 43 per cent fewer horses; 15 per cent fewer mules; 19 per cent fewer cattle; and 37 per cent fewer swine. The acreage loss in Georgia was 3,500,000 made by Congress in 1926 for that purpose. The committee says the loss was not alto and recently published, indicates that no farmgether unfortunate, for, provided reforesta relief bill will give Southern agriculture thetion is engaged in, it will be an advantags revival which it needs, but that upon the It is unfortunate, concludes the committee, in other hand, there ~~should~~ be a recasting of agri- that it represents the penalty of badly organ cultural methods and the whole agriculturalized farming and dreary rural life. system in the South. Farm relief will help Shortage of local food crops—In spite of such major crops as cotton, but over-great surpluses of staple crops, the South still production in cotton is only one of the many imports far too much food and fodder lls from which Southern agriculture suffers. Georgia ranks forty-third among the 48 state

The survey, published for the information in her ability to feed herself. She is able only of Congress in support of the Simmons-Whit- to furnish 43 per cent of the food she needs, tington bill which has been favorably reported against 78 per cent for Tennessee. "Numerous upon in ~~nowhere~~, was conducted by Howard examples were found in excessively high prices Elliott, chairman of the board of the Northern for milk, butter, eggs or poultry in towns and Pacific Railway and president of the overseers, cities, although quantities of land are nearby, of Harvard College; D. C. Roper, former com- suitable for producing all these necessities missioner of internal revenue and vice chair- under changed conditions of life on the farm." man of the tariff commission, and Dr. George Lack of self-sustaining farms—Not even the Soule, a director of the National Bureau of farms sustained themselves with food. "It is Economic Research and editor of the New Re- possible," says the committee, "to travel long public. The committee had as its advisers distances through cotton plantations without Dr. Elwood Mead, commissioner of reclama- seeing a fence, a barn, a cow or a vegetable tion; Hugh McRae, expert on rural economics; garden; there are comparatively few chickens Dr. Hugh A. Brown, chief of the division of and pigs." settlement and economic operations; Dr. C. S. \* \* \*

Inadequate marketing facilities—Absence of local food crops has prevented the establishment of markets.

The committee sets out the many advantages of the Southeast favorable to agriculture, such as the long growing season, adequate rainfall, fertile soils, nearly flat or gently rolling lands, nearness to markets, good transportation facilities, and low land values. Against them it sets out these handicaps: Unattractive rural environment—"The poverty of the tenants and their lack of social organization in many localities produces an environment dispiriting both to themselves and to prospective settlers," says the committee. "In many instances the houses are unpainted tumble-down cabins and almost every resource of a wholesome social life is lacking though

The one-crop system—The committee found that dependence is still placed to a large degree on the cotton crop. The result is that a wholesome social life is lacking, though mention should be made of the admirable consolidated rural schools which are provided in

Agriculture - 1929

Arkansas

Condition of  
**NEWS**

Concord, Ark.

FEB 21 1929

**OUR NEGRO FARMERS.**

Farm leaders of the country are looking forward to Mr. Hoover's proposed extra session of Congress which is expected to meet sometime in April to formulate a plan to bring relief to American farmers. Some leaders predict that legislation will be forthcoming that will put agriculture on easy street. Others insist that any relief for the farmer, especially in the South, must come from the farmer and not Congress.

Southern farmers are prone to take up new ideas and many of them still cling to the old "one-horse Georgia Stock" of their grandfathers' time. Such methods in this mechanical age can mean only drudgery with little pay.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture, in co-operation with the agriculture departments of the various states, is providing a wealth of scientific farming information that is disseminated through country farm agents. This has led to greater productivity on farms where the owner has been willing to make use of the information.

Ouachita county is essentially an agricultural county, with its farms about equally divided between white and negro farmers. For many years the county has had the services of a competent farm agent to assist white farmers in solving their problems, but nothing has ever been spent to aid the negro farmers. The question of a negro farm agent for the county has been presented to the quorum court on a number of occasions, but it has always been turned down. Until some action to educate the negro farmers, our agricultural prosperity can only be fifty per cent efficient.

In an effort to create a greater interest in the lot of our negro farmers, the Extension Service of the University of Arkansas College of Agriculture has placed a negro worker in Ouachita county until July 1. It is hoped by the Extension Service that, through the work of its agent, the need for a full-time negro agent will be seen. There is no doubt but that an appropriation for the work will be asked of the next quorum court, and it should, by all means, be given careful consideration.

Agriculture - 1929

General.

## Condition of Negro Farmer, Agricultural Worker, in the South

By JOHN H. OWENS.

the roof.

Though the Negro industrial worker has a burden of oppression brought back, terrorized and frequently lynched. The South is still proportion to his rewards from frequent with the graves of unfortunate Negroes, whose only crime had been that of attempting to escape from a living hell. Lynching Increasing. Their own race, the industrial capitalist, who exploits both Negro and white worker alike. And a common destiny awaits both the black and white worker of the American "democracy," the Blacktie Negroes, whose only crime had been that of attempting to escape from a living hell. Lynching Increasing. The figures given out by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, Tuskegee, South, both black and white. And concerning lynching are grossly in this manner alone can the South be held in modern history.

The great majority of these agricultural workers are found in the Black belts of the South, especially America. Many of the states have passed laws which declare that a minimum of persons (such as six, nine, twelve, etc.) are required to constitute a mob. This is done for a specific purpose. Really, in the South, one white man constitutes a mob, not because of the inherent bravery of one white man, but because of the potential mob which he represents. In other words, it is the power of the clan which determines his strength.

**Black Belt.** Of course, rural Negroes are found in varying proportions in other sections of the country, but this section comprises the Black belt of America. Many of these Negroes are forced to work from sun-up to sun-down in the field, and then take care of stock, etc., putting in a daily average of from fourteen to sixteen hours, for wages averaging less than twenty dollars a month. The white landlord's word is absolute law; the is that no Negro has any rights courts of the South offer absolutely which a white man is bound to reno protection to Negro agricultural spect, and this law is rigidly enforced. In fact it is given more re-

Vagrancy laws are directed against this unfortunate group: thus a Negro may be picked up at any North as well as South. Except in time by law enforcement officers certain localities, and in a few isolated cases, Negro farmers are only forced to work for some rural land lord without pay, because of some trumped up charge against him. It and are usually mortgaged to the many instances, not only are the limit of their limited credit facilities. Negro males forced to labor long hours in the fields in the hot sun of the South are in debt beyond but the women and children are any hope of redemption. forced to work long hours as well, hoeing cotton and corn, picking cotton, etc. In many counties in the rural South, thousands of Negroes never attend school, industrialization of many southern others the school term is about three to four months, and in hardly any of the rural counties is there ever a full eight months' term.

These rural schools in most instances are mere makeshifts, frequently unpainted shacks, containing rude wooden benches, little or no equipment, a dilapidated wood-burning stove with three legs, leaning at a perilous angle, poor light and ventilation, and sometimes, when it rains, the water comes through

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### Revolt Coming.

However, the break-up of the one-party system in the South, the industrialization of many southern communities, and the wave of revolt breaking out in the textile mills, mines and factories of the South are all harbingers of the coming revolt. The time is not far in the future when the poor whites of the South will extend the hand of fellowship to their black brothers for a common freedom, for the Southern white workers are beginning to more clearly realize that it is not the Negroes who are their enemy, but the common exploiter of

the poor whites of the South will extend the hand of fellowship to their black brothers for a common freedom, for the Southern white workers are beginning to more clearly realize that it is not the Negroes who are their enemy, but the common exploiter of

## A GLIMPSE OF THE PLANTATION NEGRO

Someone has remarked that half the world doesn't know do. They have to be drowned." laid across the foot of April's bed. . . . April wanted to throw it in the fire, but Maun Hanna stopped him. Burnin' a conjure bag or a death sheet is the worse thing that you can how the other half lives. That observation is more applicable to white and colored people than it is to the wealthy and "the white man's medicine". Sore throat, caused perhaps by the poor of the same race. The South takes pride in the fact that the Negro is "cured" by tying two plaits of hair tightly that "it knows the Negro." The Southerner has certain knowledge and methods of procedure, and he undoubtedly does know the palate, it appears, had "fallen". Maun Hanna, the plantation Negro with respect to the relationships of the two races, button's midwife and witch-doctor, possesses charms that were does he ever penetrate to the bottom of the Negro's mind brought from Africa by her slave ancestors. Uncle Isaac is It is our opinion that the average Southerner knows almost the mystic and seer of the plantation. "He could explain, nothing as to the Negro's standards and his beliefs and ambiexactly, why the grass is green and the sky is blue. Why the

sun shines in the day time and the moon and stars at night. He

If you who have lived all your life in Henry county think knew what the thunder said when it spoke. He could whistle that you know the Negro, then we suggest that you secure the first tune the wind ever whistled. One time, the night copy of "Black April" and read it carefully. It will not be was a great big black giant which ran around the sun, trying as great a revelation to you as it would be to a Northerner. Land trying to catch the day. Uncle Isaac said so, and he will bear out your belief that the Negro still is a superstitious knew more about the first men and women who ever lived than half-wild sort of fellow, distrusting the white man's learnin Adam and Eve ever dreamed of. He got it all at first-hand, and relying on his own religion and Black Magic in times by word of mouth, from Africa, where the world itself was distress. But you will also find that you have/ hardly born and a terrible black God made all men black." scratched the surface of the Negro's character as it is delineated by the author of this book, Julia Peterkin, a Southerner him or, in this particular instance, the author of "Black woman who last year was awarded one of the Pulitzer prizes April", with a simple poetry:

In "Black April" only the uneducated Negroes come under the author's observation. The time is the present and the scene is a dilapidated plantation in the Carolinas, so that some allowance should be made in the application of the story to the Negroes of rural Alabama. The treatment throughout as frank and revealing as it is, is sympathetic to the black characters. April, the plantation foreman and hero of the tale, never knew who his father was, although this father knew that April was his son. April's favorite child is the illegitimate son of his unrecognized half-sister. The story becomes further complicated genealogically for the white reader by the fact that April becomes the grandfather, by his young wife, of a child whose father is another illegitimate son. Throughout the book the distinction between one's ority among these blacks of the Carolinas. They entertain "yard chillen" and those of the other kind is preserved. There seems to be no feeling, strangely enough, of inferiority among these blacks of the Carolinas. They entertain the highest opinions of their superstitions and magic, but on occasion are scornful of the white man's books. "Uncle",

The book is packed with superstition. When Breeze's unoccasion are scornful of the white man's books. "Uncle", married mother was "birthing him" the old midwife put plowone character asks, "you believe any white folks is in He-points and, in an extremity, an axe, under the bed "to cut theben?" "Gawd knows, son," this old man replies, "White pains". This, it seems, was the chief feature of the prejufolks is mighty smart people. Dey knows a lot o' tricks we dices and mysticisms connected with the practice of obstetricsdon't know."

Breeze, April's son and half-brother, was born "wid a caul or e face". Having been born "on the small of the moon", anwhich the Negro's instincts discount, the white man, when he with this caul on his face, it followed that he was "gifted withis discussed, is made light of. He is of a "weakly race"; his second-sight". Indeed, religion and superstition dominateskin can't stand the sun, nor can his blood stand the fevers the book. "You look to me like you is conjured", one charthat come out of the swamp before frost. The white man hasacter tells another. "You' eyes looks stainin'. You must set his finger on that fever, but these Negroes still don't know crossed somebody on Sunday. De plat-eyes is after you"what causes it. But even so, this white man has his chamb When April's wife died, for instance, somebody put "an awfupion among the older of these darkies. Uncle Bill, the plan conjure" on him. "Leah's death sheet had been folded andtation's greatest religionist, pays the "Ol' Cap'n," now lon;

"Black April" represents that the Negro Race has a tremendous long way to go—if it goes at all. From its Black Magic and its religion it will take such leaders as DePriest and Moton several generations to disassociate their kind, since the mass of the Negroes the white man's civilization means nothing.

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"Who' you reckon Ol' Cap'n is today, Uncle Bill?" You don't want to say, enty? I don' blame you, but between you and me I spec' e is whe' I hope he aint; a hoppin in Hell dis minute!" "Shut you' mouth, gal! Gawd'll strike you dead first ting he know! . . . Ol' Cap'n had his faults, but e was a man! Yes Gawd! A man! . . . Slim till de day e died. His eyes could go black as soot and flash wid pure fire when e got vexed, but dey could shine soft as a gal-chillen's eyes too. . . . "Dat new preacher preaches dat de Great I-Am is a nigger! Don't you let em fool you, gal. Gawd is white. You'll see it when Judgment Day comes. An' E ain't gwine be noways hard on a fine man like Ol' Cap'n. . . . Miss Big Sue, I gwine tell you somethin. Ol' Cap'n was a lilly of de valley. E was a bright and mawmin' star. When Death took him, it took de Jodus of dis plantation. Blue Brook ain't never been de same since. No."

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Sherry (all ~~unc-~~ tell; the tide runs true, rain or shine, morning-gone... open and close by time. Big Sue's yard was full of other flowers 'They'd be wide open now. Birds change their four-o'clocks. "Listen! You can hear a song with the turn of the afternoon. Dis mawnin' e went so red-bird whistlin' right now. Dis mawnin' e went so Sherry pursed his lips and mimicked a bar of the bird's song. "Now e says to dis -----" And he whistled a few notes that the bird himself echoed. "Dat bird knows it's past four. A red-bird knows de time every bit as good as Uncle. Grass blades moves wid de day too. Dey leans dis way and dat to get de light. A lot o' tings is got more sense dan people, enty Uncle?" There seems to be no feeling, strangely enough, of inferiority among these blacks of the Carolinas. They entertain the highest opinions of their superstitions and magic, but on unoccasion are scornful of the white man's books. "Uncle" <sup>one</sup> character asks, "you believe any white folks is in Heaven?" "Gawd knows, son," this old man replies, "Whit folks is mighty smart people. Dey knows a lot o' tricks w

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# Agriculture-1929 Condition of FARM COMMUNITIES

Senator Simmons has a new plan for improving the farmer of the South. He is backed in it by Hugh MacRae, of Wilmington; David R. Coker, of Hertsville, S. C., Dr. E. C. Branson, of the University of North Carolina, and others prominent in the South.

The Simmons-Whittington bill introduced today by Senator Simmons and by Representative W. M. Whittington, of Mississippi, in the House, relates to the improvement of rural life conditions in Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee and Texas.

The agriculture of the South is a distinct problem which cannot be solved by ordinary farm relief legislation. It has factors that menace the very existence of Southern rural life and that require special remedies.

## Needs Reorganization

Senator Simmons says that Southern agriculture needs a complete reorganization from the ground up. Planned and supervised colonies are believed to be the primary step in establishing an enduring rural life in the South and putting it on a parity with other sections of the United States.

His purpose is to demonstrate the value of organized community life that will endure and transform a section in which agriculture is still decadent, into one capable of sustaining a prosperous and happy rural life. It will not be a charity but an opportunity. Each of these organized agricultural communities would be a little world in itself with every man, woman and child cooperating while living under the best rural conditions with modern facilities for comfortable living.

## Farm Surplus

The bill introduces no problem of increasing farm surplus. The set-up for each state will be distinct from the others, being governed by the system of agriculture to which each tract is best adapted, and will give primary consideration to supplying home markets. It does not contemplate drainage of swamps or the use of land involving expensive preparation, nor does it con-

template the use of poor land; only the best types of lands will be selected. This is not a land reclamation project.

The lands will be acquired at low prices so that farms can be sold at very reasonable prices upon easy terms of payment, with low rates of interest which will enable industrious farmers to attain ownership.—H. E. C. Bryant, in Charlotte Observer.

## A GROWING COTTON LOSS.

Cotton trade experts, both in the United States and in Europe, are warning the cotton growers of the south of a cotton waste entailing millions of dollars every year and growing greater with each recurring season. It is in the production of inferior cotton.

It is claimed that the average cotton production is growing poorer in quality every year, thereby producing a smaller income for the farmer. One of the most prominent cotton mill men of the nation testified to a congressional committee that the quality of American cotton is steadily deteriorating and that only 10 per cent of the annual crop is of a staple of which we have any reason to be proud.

The trend of the cotton textile demand all over the world is for lighter cotton cloth and as such cloth contains less cotton to the yard it requires a lighter, longer and stronger staple. Yet the cotton growers seem to be making no efforts of effect to improve the average staple of their crops. The variety of cotton known as "half-and-half" seems most popular with the common run of cotton farmers and croppers. It is declared by the spinners to be no better than the low grade cotton raised in India by cheap labor on cheap lands. The present consequence is that the English spinners, in a Manchester report, show a considerable increase in the consumption of Indian cotton. Compared with last year less American cotton was consumed outside the United States and here at home more Egyptian staple is required for textiles that are to be mercerized.

If the southern cotton growers do not improve the quality of the staple they raise they will yearly

*Geneva*, hand over more of their export market to the cheaper staple from India and other foreign fields. This particular and enormous waste through indifferent culture can be stopped by the cotton growers.

## TWO MILLIONS COOPERATE

Two million farmers are organized into 12,000 associations in the United States for the purpose of marketing their products or buying their supplies, or doing both, on a cooperative basis, according to the United States Department of Agriculture. Last year they sold collectively farm products to the value of nearly \$2,000,000, and they purchased farm supplies to the value of nearly a half-million dollars.

These cooperatively minded farmers are scattered throughout the forty-eight states. They are particularly numerous in Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, Missouri, New York, and in the states along the Pacific coast.

Nearly one-third of the farmers engaged in buying or selling together are members of farmers' elevator associations, and about one-fifth belong to cooperative creameries, cheese factories, or milk-marketing associations. Nearly 150,000 are interested in the cooperative ginning or marketing of cotton. About 50,000 farmers are selling poultry products cooperatively, and about 25,000 are acting collectively in marketing their annual wool clips.

Nearly one-half of the farmers participating in cooperative activity are members of more than one organization.

*advertisers* The costs of providing drainage and other improvements for the benefit of the community would be spread over the farms in the settlement and repaid as part of the cost of the land. The communities would be large enough so that they could organize in both social and business affairs. The advantages offered settlers in this plan would attract experienced farmers of thrift and integrity and create a permanent community of earnest intelligent people who would be equipped to utilize the benefits of scientific knowledge, modern farm machinery, and team work in the selection of crops to be grown and preparation and marketing of products. It would introduce into farming the benefits of mass production, of standard quality farm products. Means would be provided for helping the farmers in solving problems of production, marketing, credit and other factors entering into their social and economic life. The experts of the land-grant colleges and State universi-

ties and other public institutions would be freely called upon for service in making these into communities of prosperous and contented farmers.

## LOOKING AND LISTENING

BY SAM W. SMALL

## What in Sam Hill Is a Debenture? Here's the Answer.

The Constitution has been somewhat flooded with inquiries as to "what in Sam Hill is a debenture?"

Farmers, in particular, seem puzzled to determine whether it is an Argot bringing to them the golden fleece of prosperity or a plague ship that will destroy what life is left in their industry. Senator Harris sees it in the first form and President Hoover paints it in the latter shape.

Our best understanding is that the export debentures scheme is a German invention that has found welcome in the ranks of the National Grangers. Because it helped somewhat to restabilize certain German industries temporarily our Granger fellow-citizens wish to try it on the agricultural industry of our own country.

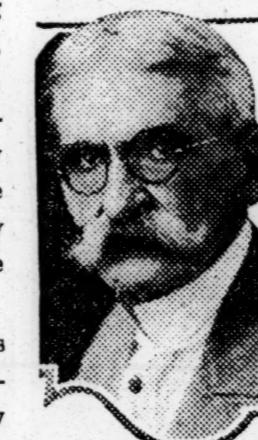
It means that whenever the farm board, if created, thinks it necessary, the secretary of the treasury shall issue export debentures "to any farmer, co-operative association, stabilization corporation, or other persons, with respect to such quantity of the commodity, or manufactured food product thereof, as such person may from time to time export from the United States

to any foreign country." The debentures will have half the value of the tariff on any farm product or that part of it that enters into manufactured food stuffs.

As there is no tariff on cotton the amount is fixed at two cents a pound, or about \$10 per bale. The title to a debenture is to pass to delivery have a life of one year, and be legal tender at face value in payment of custom or import taxes.

It is figured that with a bounty of \$10 on every bale of cotton exported, including lint, the entire crop will, of course, be advanced that amount, or an average of \$14,500,000. The debentures on the large exports of lint and linters would be \$79,600,000, which amount would be deducted from import dues and have to be made up to the national treasury from other taxes paid by the people at large; and through the increased cost of cotton the people would also pay the remainder of the \$159,500,000, or \$79,600,000.

This export debentures provision would undoubtedly boost domestic prices, not only for raw cotton, but for the finished goods sent out from the factories for sale to the consuming public. Now with these facts at the head of his slate the farmer, for instance, can easily figure out how far the \$10 per bale bonus, given to the person who actually exports the cotton and not to himself personally as the grower, would go to help his cost of living at the store of his favorite merchant? We confess that, without the data in each man's individual case, we cannot figure out the puzzle for any of our inquirers.



## THE SMALL FARM HOLDING ITS OWN

*Editorial Sketch*  
8-24-29

THE VIEW, RATHER WIDELY HELD, that the cure for many of our agricultural ills rests with the application of so-called modern, large-scale methods of farming and the merging of many small farms or holdings into one large enterprise, seems to have received a body blow from the United States Chamber of Commerce. This organization, we read, has an agricultural service department which has been looking into the relative merits or advantages of large vs. small farms. Returns were received from some seventy-four large-scale farms averaging 11,797 acres in size, having an average capitalization of \$553,743, and a four-year average of \$102,676 in gross income. Much to the surprise of the average American newspaper editor, the little farmer makes just as much money, acre for acre, as the big farmer. The chief advantage of the small farm, explains the *Washington Star*, appears to be in the application of labor: a man working for himself or his father works longer and harder than one working for wages. To quote a portion of the Chamber of Commerce report:

"Taken as a group, the large-scale farms apparently have been no more nor any less successful than the average of the family-size farms. Furthermore, there are fully as great variations in efficiency among the large farms as has been found in numerous surveys of family farms. It appears, then, that mere incorporation or organization of farming enterprises on a large scale will not automatically solve the problems of the agricultural industry.

"From this study it appears that large-scale farms may have advantages over family farms in superior management, organization, more efficient utilization of machinery, specialization of labor, buying and selling in wholesale quantities and, in some instances, reduction of overhead expense.

"The large farms also have certain disadvantages. They experience difficulty in securing efficient labor and in obtaining the degree of interest of the laborers in the success of the business which is found on family farms. The seasonal character of farm work and uncertainties in weather conditions prevent as effective use of machinery and as complete division of labor as is achieved in some other industries.

"The future development of large-scale farming in the United States is a matter of conjecture. Fears as to the probable disastrous effects of an extensive development of large-scale farming upon the social life of the rural population are at least premature, since this type of farming still is a relatively unimportant factor in the agricultural industry, and the rapidity of its future development is uncertain."

This is welcome news to the *New York World*, for "it would be a calamity if the spread of corporate farming should finally force 10,000,000 independent producers to become wage-earners." That the application of mass-production methods to the soil is gaining, however, is pointed out in the report, which says there are 9,000 farming corporations with a gross income total of \$709,000,000 in 1928 on the books of the income-tax

bureau. And this, we are reminded, is 6 per cent. of the total gross income of American agriculture. But, points out the *Chicago Journal of Commerce*:

"Some large-scale farms, of course, are richly successful; otherwise nobody would be going into the business. In these cases, however, it is nearly always discovered that there is something peculiar in the geographical conditions or in the nature of the commodities produced, or that the management is exceptionally capable. On the whole, the large-scale farms earn no more return than the family farms."

**THE FARMING EVOLUTION.** of diversified crops, saving land and It takes time for great movements of evolution to come to head, but there is such a movement. Some of the 4-H club boys have in the industry of farming that raised three bales of fine cotton or gathering strength and will in a single acre of the same quality, revolutionize it in this country. It is manifesting itself in a forced necessity to reduce farm from 12 acres. That is a cold, units and apply intensive methods proven fact of record.

9-16-29 Demonstration like that is not Forty per cent of the more than 100 million farms in the United States at present are of less than 50 acres each. Except in the cotton belt those "one-horse-thirds" of all the farms in the "farms" as they were once called, United States will measure much diversified crops. The farms from 500 to 5,000 acres and over.

The greater farms are not worked for a living and ultimate family competency, but for big profit-making through cotton marketing co-operative associations should be helpful, Union with \$542 per capita.

The action of the federal farm board in offering loans up to 16 cents per pound on cotton pledged \$45, in Texas 7343, Arkansas \$449, Mississippi leading all states in the

small farmers who own their property. Nevertheless the mouth of a gift-tically free farms, have current credit at home, and cultivate with a horse must not be too critically examined. The farm board has had industry and economy, who do not first to find itself and know its

soonest possible. Its action should promptly draw the great majority of the farmers who yet have cotton in hand to join the available cooperative and get whatever benefit the 16 cents advance may produce. The hope of the board and the cotton growers is that the action will at once guarantee the holding are generally opposed to large farms. They know the greater of the crop as to raise the average profitableness of using farm machinery in the intensive cultivation.

the present spot and contract quotations, permit the embargoed portion to be fed to buyers at profit prices, and so establish a permanent marketing system that will redeem the producers from the squeezing arts of market manipulators and gamblers.

It is not safe to predict what will come from the farm board's action. That will depend upon how the farmers respond to its intentions and make general use of its aid. It may happily turn out to be a salva-

## Southern Negroes Operate One-Fourth Of Nation's Farms

Mississippi leading with 161,001; Georgia 130,176; South Carolina 109,005; Alabama 95,200; Texas 78,664; North Carolina 74,849; Arkansas 72,272; Louisiana 62,086; Virginia 47,690; Tennessee 38,181; Oklahoma 18,727; Florida 12,954; Kentucky 12,624.

These farms, including a few in Delaware and Maryland, are 41,436-943 acres, valued at \$2,139,964,790.

The negroes' wealth in the south is about \$3,000,000,000, while in the north it is less than \$75,000,000. His

I would like those who oppose our race read this and see if I am not right in advising the negroes to remain in the south. If things are not as we wish them to be, we can not correct them by leaving. Not only would I advise to remain in the south, but on the farms. The article in a previous issue, "Strange Facts" should be read. It does not only justify them to remain on the farms, but will justify the state to improve the rural communities with better school facilities.—Southern Watchman



POURING INTO THE

—Holley in the N

Agriculture 1929

Condition of

## Interesting Figures on Farming in Georgia Showing What Can Be Accomplished

BY HARVIE JORDAN.

*Constitution*  
Editor Constitution: I read your editorial of the 14th inst. entitled "Our Farm Problems." The present agricultural situation in Georgia is more depressed than at any time in the past history of the state. The problem for rehabilitation is acute and is only practical and speedy solution lies in the adoption by the farmers of a change from the old methods of excessive acreage per plow to the modern efficient system of intensive culture.

*Constitution*  
The stage of experiment has been passed in the last six years of proving the economic and profitable value of intensive culture on restricted acreage per plow in thousands of ocular field demonstrations with cotton and corn in every state in the south. In 1928 through our better farming campaign we had operated in

for corn, 10 bushels per acre, as estimated by the federal crop reporting bureau, putting Georgia at the bottom in acre yields of lint cotton and corn for 1928.

*Constitution*  
I present herewith a statement based upon the reports of a few of the Georgia operators of our demonstrations to show what is being done and can be applied by every efficient

farmer in Georgia.

These results show the profits of the State College of Agriculture, efficient farm operation, liberal for in an address here today to farmers, tilization and intensive culture. Our bankers and business men from a dozen field demonstrations are operated by average good farmers, without an in south Georgia counties asserted personal supervision of their activities that he could not understand why a and without the promise of attractive cash prizes so often used by other agencies to stimulate extra effort. Cotton is now and will continue to be the leading money crop of Georgia and corn the principal food crop. Both can be grown profitably by more ef

| Name               | Postoffice     | 2 Acre<br>Sale of<br>lint yield<br>in lbs. | Cost of<br>seed | Net<br>profit per<br>acres | Lint<br>yield<br>in lbs. |
|--------------------|----------------|--|-----------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Homer Davis        | Rome           | 2,232                                      | \$513.86        | \$130.70                   | \$382.66                 |
| R. P. Burson       | Monroe         | 1,888                                      | 401.48          | 156.02                     | 245.56                   |
| H. F. Fulbright    | Eastanolle     | 1,690                                      | 371.66          | 102.88                     | 268.78                   |
| L. W. Murphy       | Cannon         | 1,586                                      | 371.46          | 108.02                     | 263.44                   |
| E. Fortson         | Lovejoy        | 1,568                                      | 339.92          | 89.56                      | 250.36                   |
| A. P. Johns        | Toccoa         | 1,510                                      | 365.42          | 103.60                     | 261.82                   |
| J. D. Cash         | Flowers Branch | 1,421                                      | 345.81          | 88.25                      | 257.56                   |
| B. C. Bright       | Hampton        | 1,352                                      | 205.24          | 117.16                     | 178.08                   |
| T. W. Parker       | Congers        | 1,350                                      | 249.50          | 92.50                      | 257.00                   |
| P. W. Cobb         | Watkinsville   | 1,226                                      | 291.60          | 85.20                      | 206.40                   |
| J. H. Patrick      | Jackson        | 1,263                                      | 283.00          | 100.93                     | 182.04                   |
| Herschel B. Harris | Watkinsville   | 1,244                                      | 289.68          | 107.83                     | 181.85                   |
| T. B. Wiley        | Blackshear     | 1,240                                      | 275.60          | 80.00                      | 195.60                   |
| J. W. McCurley     | Martin         | 1,222                                      | 281.20          | 86.90                      | 194.30                   |
| W. J. Butler       | Lawrenceville  | 1,200                                      | 278.00          | 80.00                      | 196.00                   |
| W. T. Long         | Jefferson      | 1,197                                      | 276.92          | 139.90                     | 137.02                   |
| J. A. Coachman     | Leslie         | 1,190                                      | 246.20          | 79.76                      | 166.44                   |
| E. Fortson         | Lovejoy        | 1,165                                      | 245.04          | 81.26                      | 163.78                   |

The above reports will analyze on the acre basis as follows:

Average per acre yield of lint cotton.....

Average per acre sale of lint and seed.....

Average per acre, cost of production.....

Average per acre, net profit.....

### REPORTS OF CORN YIELDS

| Name            | Postoffice  | Per Acre<br>yield bus. | Per Acre<br>value | Per Acre<br>cost | Per Acre<br>net profit |
|-----------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------------|
| A. J. Johns     | Toccoa      | .76                    | \$76.00           | \$14.00          | \$62.00                |
| W. T. Long      | Jefferson   | .65                    | 81.25             | 11.24            | 70.01                  |
| W. O. Hudson    | Elberton    | .51                    | 61.00             | 17.40            | 43.60                  |
| J. W. Elliott   | Williamson  | .42                    | 42.00             | 15.00            | 27.00                  |
| W. H. Austin    | Alpharetta  | .41                    | 41.00             | 15.00            | 26.00                  |
| H. A. Martin    | Lutherville | .41                    | 41.00             | 13.50            | 27.50                  |
| G. W. Pough     | Lumpkin     | .41                    | 41.00             | 14.00            | 27.00                  |
| A. Morrison     | Barney      | .39                    | 39.00             | 10.50            | 28.50                  |
| H. F. Fulbright | Eastanolle  | .38                    | 38.00             | 14.40            | 23.60                  |

cotton and 85 corn field demonstrations. The average yield of lint cotton at these stations was in excess of one bale per acre and the average acre yield of corn approximated 40 bushels. Every demonstration cultivated through the season and not destroyed by storms or excessive rains yielded a good profit per acre to the growers. The yields of these intensively cultivated farms compare with the average low yield per acre in Georgia of only 131 pounds of lint cotton, and counties of Georgia, by farmers, 130

ficient farm operations under the infi system of culture. It must be the purchasing power of the people done of Georgia farmers expect as a whole, but more particularly of compete successfully with the state those who live in the open country, west of the Mississippi river. This situation, Dr. Soule stated, has state must assume a helpful attitude to bring about a better appre in working out the problem of agriculation and understanding of the real cultural rehabilitation in the variou relation which a prosperous agric counties if definite and satisfactor progress is to be made in the nex expansion. Thousands of Georgi In this connection, Dr. Soule said farms have become a liability to thei that many leaders have reached the owners while the exodus of farm la conclusion that something is radically wrong with rural society, and that its immediate correction is now regarded as of such general importance and concern that the thought and energy of the people are being gradually centred upon the discovery of a quick and efficient remedy to use in asso

Georgia.

## DR. SOULE ATTACKS COOLIDGE PROSPERITY

### Georgia College Head Says Agricultural Conditions Are Not as Pictured.

Moultrie, Ga., January 29.—(AP)—Centering his attack on "big business," Dr. Soule asserted. This, he said, is the fundamental relation which a pros

pective farmer must understand to agriculture and the rural home." He asserted that educated leaders were

continu

it has not been possible as yet for any considerable number of savants, industrial leaders or economists to correctly visualize and understand the fundamental relation which a pros

perous and progressive agriculture bears toward the social uplift and material welfare of the nation."

Apparently only the arrival of a pronounced crisis "will bring us to our senses," Dr. Soule said. He criti

cized President Coolidge for failing to "take up the cudgels on behalf of the tillers of the soil" and took issue

12 Lbs with the chief executive in his recent remark that the farmer must work

50.8 out his own salvation.

ciation with the rehabilitation of the nation's farm owners.

He explained that the satisfactory solution of the farm problem necessitates new methods of practice, the institution of new plans of procedure, the purchase and utilization of new classes of implements of greater horsepower, and the cultivation of new crops upon a different scale from that which has been followed in the past. Provision must be made for the development of a live stock program. Everything on the farm must be made up-to-date, he said.

A keener perception and evaluation of farm economics on the part of bankers and business men than now exists are needed, the speaker said. Something besides cotton alone will have to be deemed worthy of credit before conditions now confronting the southeastern states can be changed. A well-devised plan of crop diversification is essential, he said, but this will be impossible without the active aid of the bankers and business men.

Any program of agricultural prosperity must be predicated "more upon an educational motivation than anything else," he declared. "Our business leaders, savants and politicians have never been sold as yet to the genuine need of a nation-wide, broad-gauged, constructive policy of educational development as it relates to agriculture and the rural home."

He asserted that educated leaders were

continued, that it seemed "strange that

it has not been possible as yet for

any considerable number of savants,

industrial leaders or economists to

correctly visualize and understand

the fundamental relation which a pros

perous and progressive agriculture

bears toward the social uplift and

material welfare of the nation."

Two or three members of the college's extension service, who have done outstanding contest work during 1928, will be members of the party.

The trip will include spending a

day in New Orleans, a day in Hous

ton, a tour of the Rio Grande valley

and a stop in Brownsville as the last

point before crossing the border. The

party will go into Mexico to Mata

moros, where it will attend an inter

national agricultural banquet, return

ing to Houston from there to spend

Sunday. They will visit the capitol

at Austin and will be received by the

governor and both houses of the Texas

state legislature. Before returning

home, the party will spend a final

day inspecting farming operations in

northeastern Texas.

## N. A. EDWARDS WRITES ABOUT COLORED CLUB.

February 22, 1929.  
Editor Advocate-Democrat,  
Crawfordville, Ga.

Kind sir, please allow space in your columns to speak to our boys of Taliaferro county about the 3-acre cotton contest for colored folks.

Let us have fifty colored farmers to join this contest. May we not be afraid, but be brave and take courage, for some of the best white people of the county are behind this movement. Mr. John F. Holden is leading the fight. To be a winner in this contest, you must have plenty of energy, rise early and stay on the job.

Rev. N. T. Thompson, of Atlanta, Ga., is down preparing to enter the contest. He has been one of Hancock county's best colored farmers.

The writer is asking that we live more economically than ever, and be alive to our vocation, and stay on the job. We hope our yield will be so bountiful that our young men and young women will leave the cities and come back to the farm and if they cannot grow cotton, grow other farm products and raise the biggest hogs.

Mr. Tom Asbury gave a fine lecture last Saturday afternoon.

Now fathers, encourage your boys to join and learn how to farm and be a man while you live.

N. A. EDWARDS, Col.

Constitution  
Atlanta, Ga.

**REPLACEMENT FARMERS.**

The replacement of worn-out farmers is interesting the federal board for vocational education and it is undertaking to stimulate the instruction of youths in agricultural colleges and vocational departments of other institutions to meet the annual deficits.

The rural economists figure that the productive managerial life of a farmer is 20 years, which means that one-twentieth of the farmers must be supplied each year by beginners. As there are approximately 6,450,000 farmers in the United States, by the latest computation of the department of agriculture, the normal demand for new farmers is 322,500 per year.

The figures for Georgia call for 15,500 replacements each year—9,000 for the white farmers and 6,500 for the negro farmers.

In order to take care of these replacements in Georgia, if each of the new farmers is to have the advantage of secondary education with vocational training, it will be necessary to turn out from the white agricultural courses each year one-twentieth of 180,000 white farmers and as many from the colored institutions for recruits of the 130,000 negro farmers.

It is found that around 51 per cent of the graduates from agricultural schools engage afterwards in actual farming as their vocation; which would seem to call for twice as many such graduates as would otherwise answer normal demands.

The main question of interest to Georgians is how far are our agricultural training schools and colleges meeting even the normal annual demand for replacements? If they could adequately meet them each year the farms of Georgia would, within a decade, be practically under the conduct of farmers scientifically instructed and capable of making agriculture a most regular and profitable industry of the state.

This issue presents itself in most appealing terms to the present gen-

eration of Georgia farmers. If they wish their sons and daughters to carry on their inherited farm estates in a worthy way they will insist upon the legislatures of the state supporting the agricultural schools in a generous and productive way. By such wisdom and liberality the Georgia farmer of the next generation can be made the equal of the most prosperous and contended agriculturists of the world.

December 1929.

Condition of

Political  
Buena Vista, Ga.  
JAN 11 1929

## A FARM LABOR PROBLEM

The Harris bill, which practically excludes Mexico common labor from the United States, has been unanimously reported for passage at Washington.

The common labor supply on farms in the southwestern part of the United States is a serious problem and Mexico labor which comes in to harvest the seasonal crops and which returns to Mexico when the rush is over, seems to be the principal source of supply. It is estimated that 70,000 such laborers are used each year, while under the proposed legislation this number would be cut down to about 1200.

It is stated by persons in authority who have dealt with Mexican common labor that it does not compete with white labor and that biologically and otherwise it is preferable to Philippine, Porto Rican and Negro labor. In the sugar belt fields, in mines and on the railroad section gangs in the semi-arid sections of the Southwest no other labor seems able to stand the heat as well as the Mexicans.

DEMOCRAT

Glenville N. Va.

JAN 17 1929

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Harris Bill.

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The problem is a serious one and deserving of the fullest investigation and consideration free from prejudice or political pressure.

Agriculture 1929

Condition of  
**TRIBUNE**  
CONCORD, N. C.

MAR 25 1929  
NEGRO FARM OPERATORS IN  
STATE.

Cabarrus county between the years 1910 and 1925, inclusive had a very small increase in negro farm operators, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., shows in a recent issue of The University News Letter. The number of these negro operators in Cabarrus in 1925 was 121, an increase of 1.6 per cent. over 1910. There was an increase in 65 counties, and the Cabarrus increase was almost the smallest of all the 65 counties. In 35 counties there was a decrease.

However, in the State as a whole there has been a large increase and Mr. Hobbs predicts that if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the States except Mississippi. North Carolina increased her farms during the 1910-25 period faster than all the other States except three; she increased her farm tenants faster than any other State except one, and she led all the States in increase of negro farmers. In fact the increase of farms was very largely an increase of farm tenants and negro farmers.

During the 1910-25 period North Carolina, with a net gain of 15,310 farms operated by negroes, had the largest increase of negro farmers of any State. The second largest increase was in Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina experienced large losses of negro farmers, due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Many of these negroes moved to North Carolina, which has not been so hard hit by the boll weevil, and which has a second crop attractive to negroes and suited to tenancy—tobacco.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the State lost negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the State. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,061 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties in which negro

North Carolina.

farms increased had an increase of 17,371 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest per cent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest per cent. decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 per cent. The farms operated by negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,996, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. In other words, the rate of increase of negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by negroes in 1925 were 28.5 per cent. of all farms in the State, the ratio having risen from 25.8 per cent. in 1910.

The negro farmers who own their farms are 27.3 per cent. of all negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in the western part of the State, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, negro farm tenancy and negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the negro ratio the higher the rate of negro tenancy.

In 1925 there were 80,996 farms in the State operated by negroes. While we rank fifth in negro farmers, there is really only one State, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.

**ENTERPRISE**

*High Point, N. C.*

APR 25 1929

**AN UNWHOLESOME SIGN  
IN AGRICULTURE.**

The News Letter of the University of North Carolina points out the increase in the number of farm tenants in North Carolina from 1910 to 1925. It shows

that although the number of farmers in the state has increased during that period by 29,575, only 8,790 of these are farm owners while 20,967 are tenants.

The greatest percentage of farm tenancy is in the coastal plain counties and the smallest percentage is in the mountain counties. Negro farmers now constitute 45.9 percent of all tenants in North Carolina as compared with 40 percent in 1900.

Commenting editorially on this unwholesome state of North Carolina's agriculture, the Charlotte News says:

"The increase in our tenancy on the farms is significant of the trend in rural life in North Carolina today. Here is a giant evil of our state and the bane of our agricultural existence. What boots it to argue for diversity, for living at home, for dairying, for trucking and for all those variations of life on the farm, when we have a condition of tenancy that will make it impossible for such diversification ever to come about?

"It looks, therefore, as if we are barking up the wrong tree in our advocacy of these virtues as solvents of our agricultural ills. We had better turn our attention to the germs of the trouble and try to eradicate these before we attack the external symptoms on our farm body."

Condition of  
**FARM HOMES IN N. C.**

The last meeting of the North Carolina Club at the University was devoted to a consideration of North Carolina's Farm Homes, a paper on the subject being presented by Professor Paul W. Wager. Extracts from his paper follow.

family. There is thus the more reason in agriculture as in other industries for the big problem in connection with such why the furnishings, the appearance, dustries. The speaker admitted that colonies is that "of creating social values in the atmosphere of a farm home be such there might be economies in such farm regions."

2-4-29

Dr. Branson is backed by a large body of expert opinion in his contention that the directed, cooperative farm community offers the South its best opportunity to realize its great agricultural possibilities. Nobody has advanced which tend to break down family unity expressed the hope that the economies of a better plan, doubtless because Dr. Branson unless there be counter unifying forces: large scale production and marketing is admittedly the outstanding authority on the

Anyone riding across the state over the automobile and the village movie could be accomplished through cooperation of the state highways must be important, thus preserving the independent press by the number of new farm-homes. The parents are wise enough to enjoy proprietor. There will always be room houses. Indeed so many of the buildings are new that he wonders what the well-selected library, and good magazines for the Master Farmer, the man with countryside could have looked like. Tenzines will tend to hold the young people unusual managerial ability. On the years ago. Most of these new homes are in the home. It is not so much things other hand, there will always be poor modest bungalows or semi-bungalows that make a home, however, but atmosphere-farmers, for a family satisfied to live Thanks to the exigencies of his pocket-book, and there will not be the proper on a subsistence level can do so with book the owner his building atmosphere in a home if the mother is less exertion on a farm than anywhere house with lower ceilings, fewer and overworked, the father discouraged, else.

smaller rooms, and less spacious the children dissatisfied. Common porches than the houses of a genera-interests, sharing of responsibility, tion ago. The buildings are less ornate fullest cooperation on the part of and more comfortable. It is, unfor-father, mother, and children are all tunate, however, that so many of them necessary. The children must share in lack the modern conveniences that a the work and the parents must share in farm home may now contain. Kitchen the play. All must love the home and sinks with running water, and indoor its surroundings and contribute to their toilet facilities are still rare. Electric improvement.

Community Farming As Dr. Branson Sees It

Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan professor of rural economics at the University of North Carolina, is again proclaiming that coordinated or directed farm communities are the way by which the Southern farmer may come into a fuller and more prosperous life and at the same time enrich the South. This time his proclamation is

### Southern Homes Inferior

ew areas, notably in Cleveland county. While these things cost more in the country than in the city the cost is not prohibitive. To give a picture of farm life is North Carolina Professor Wager described living conditions among white land-owner operators in Wake county. And here is the inspiration and foundation of the Branson plan: "It is difficult to make

It is unfortunate, too, that so many of these new homes lack the trees and shrubs and landscaping necessary to give them setting. It is not uncommon to see a new house that is rather attractive structurally set on a bare, red knoll without a tree or shrub to soften and color the picture. It may be that trees have been planted that will eventually provide shade and beauty; but why could not the house have been placed among the trees in the first place? When one builds on a city lot he does not have the choice of location that the farmer usually has. The home demonstrators are doing a fine work of both in suggesting kitchen improvements and in encouraging the beautification of the home grounds.

land-owner operators in Wake county. And here is the inspiration and foundation of the home life of the mountaineers, the Branson plan: "It is difficult to make poverty and hopelessness of the farmer farming a profitable business. It is even more difficult to make farming a satisfactory way of life. Both ideals call for farm owners typical Master Farmer. He also described the farms and farm homes of the Northeastern counties, expressing the opinion that they were the most attractive in the state. Each planned and directed rural settlement, says this eminent authority on the subject, should have land sufficient for at least two hundred farms, an area large enough to give it an agriculture independent of the surrounding country. It should embrace only good North and West. The value of buildings is \$811 per farm in North Carolina fertile. This land should be bought wholesale, and \$1,781 in the United States as subdivided into farms of suitable size and whole. Forty-two states rank ahead sold at cost, with terms of purchase long and interest rate low. Everything possible, such as buying, selling and arranging crops, should be done on the cooperative plan.

In conclusion, Professor Wager said "It is fairly easy," Dr. Branson continues, "to find in any Southern State advantageously

### Center of Family Life

Any home ought to be more than a individual farmstead, occupied, culti-contains 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres, there shelter and a farm home can be made vacant, and improved by the owner, are 15,000,000 acres which were once the best especially attractive. The work, the They maintain that the one-man or "A most important consideration is the loca- play, the study, the business of the two-men farms are economically un-tion of these farm colonies in alert social areas, farm family is concentrated more in sound and that we may look for They ought not to be located in regions where the home than is the case with a city specialization and large-scale produc. life has been in the doldrums for the last

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cooperative farm community offers the  
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is admittedly the outstanding authority on the  
situation he here discusses.—*Asheville Citizen*

news  
Gedeborg, L.

MAR 19 1925

## OUR NEGRO FARMERS

Wayne county ranks eighteenth among the counties in the state in the number of Negro farmers, according to statistics presented by S. H. Hobbs, Jr., in the University of North Carolina News Letter. In 1925 there were 1,925 Negro farm operators in Wayne. There was a 43.6 percent increase between the years of 1910-25.

Prof. Holbs declares that few are familiar with the degree to which North Carolina farms are operated by Negroes, or the rapidity with which our Negro farmers have increased within recent years.

In 1925 there were 80,966 farms in the state operated by Negroes. While we rank fifth in Negro farmers, there is really only one state, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas, and if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the states except Mississippi. The 1930 census will tell.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the state lost Negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the state. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,061 Negro farmers. The sixty-five coun-

ties in which Negro farms increased had an increase of 17,371 Negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt, 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 Negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest percent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest percent decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, the farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 percent. The farms operated by Negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,966, or an increase of 23.3 percent. In other words, the rate of increase of Negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by Negroes in 1925 were 28.5 percent of all farms in the state, the ratio having risen from 25.8 percent in 1910.

The Negro framers who own their farms are 27.3 percent of all Negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in the western part of the state, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, Negro farm tenancy and Negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the Negro ratio the higher the rate of Negro tenancy.

The article by Prof. Hobbs on Negro farmers is

the third in the News Letter in which he has studied the farm question from as many angles. In the current issue he gives his conclusion, a conclusion which one who has followed his studies must agree with, and a conclusion such as to give pause for sober reflection. Says Prof. Hobbs:

"The chances for the type of agriculture that North Carolina needs, and for the type of rural civilization we would wish her to achieve, have not been enhanced by the drift of the last two decades, especially in the eastern and southern parts of the state. Especially unfortunate is the enormous increase of farm tenancy in Eastern

North Carolina where tenancy ratios already were excessive. In that great cash-crop belt nearly seventy percent of all farms are now operated by tenants, and the rate rises year by year. The tax problem, the school problem, the voting problems, and all other social-economic problems of that region are largely the products of excessive landlessness and homelessness."

Plumb's N. C. Beacon  
Friday, March 22, 1929

## Only Few Know Number Of Farms Owned By Negroes

Few are familiar with the degree to which Washington county farms are operated by Negroes, or the rapidity with which Negro farmers have increased within recent years.

Between 1910 and 1925 the number of Negro operators of farms in this county increased 93.3 percent. In 1925 there were 459 Negro farmers in the county. It is generally thought that this increase has continued from 1925 to 1929 with a greater proportionate increase.

Many Negroes in this county own their own farms. They are getting more independent in their dealings as they are gradually increasing in wealth even in this county. Washington county is very little different from many other counties in the State in connection with this matter. It is a commonly known fact that much of this interesting information in regards to the increasing wealth of the Negro is visible here.

It is also an established fact that this State as well as this county is increasing the number of farms. Those large plantations that were so prominent in the ante-bellum age have given away to the smaller farmer as the real estate agencies have cut the large farms up into smaller ones which gives the small farmer a chance to own his own farm.

**TIMES**  
RALEIGH, N. C.

APR 12 1929

### NEGRO OWNERSHIP FARM LANDS WHOLLY BENEFICENT PROCESS

We see quoted from the Elizabeth City Independent a point of view respecting the negro that is to our mind astounding. It is nothing less than an apparent protest against the increase in number of those members of the race in the process of achieving land-ownership:

Negro ownership of farms in North Carolina shows an alarming increase. The net increase of negro farm owners in North Carolina for the ten-year period of 1910-1925 was 15,310. North Carolina farms are passing into the hands of negro farmers at the rate of 1,531 a year.

I call this increase in negro farm ownership alarming because the blight of agriculture in North Carolina today is too many backward farmers. The white farmers in North Carolina taken as a whole are a backward lot. The negro is generally several steps behind the white man.

The average negro in his laudable desire to own land and establish his citizenship too often impoverishes both himself and the land in the effort to acquire the land. He can't improve the soil; he has put his all into the acquisition of it and thenceforth for years to come it is a struggle for him to get a living out of the soil, with nothing to put back into the soil. The result is less productive farm lands, a retarded agriculture.

Nothing is going to stop the negro from farm ownership. He finds a pride, a satisfaction and a sense of security in the ownership of a farm that few white men can understand or appreciate. And he is going to continue to reach out for more and more farms. As more and more white farmers move into towns, more and more negroes will move on to the farms. White owners, when they decide to sell their farms, are not adverse to finding negro buyers, for negroes keep up their payments. A negro may neglect his store account or a cash financial obligation, but he will meet his payments on real estate. A large and larger increase in negro farm ownership in North Carolina is inevitable.

The negro already is in the definite process of being lost to farming as the laborer or the tenant of the white man. If he does not become attached to the soil, he leaves the State or migrates to the city job. If he is to remain on the land in numbers, it must be by the process of becoming fixed to land as an owner.

Particularly from the point of view of the cultivation of lands in large part left waste and from that of relieving the white population from the negro as burden, negro ownership is the solution from within of a problem that has proved unsolvable from without.

largest cotton county in the state, must be given due credit for a part of this county's high ranking nowadays in the

agricultural world, for in Cleveland county there are negro farmers unexcelled anywhere in the country. The transformation of the negro farm-hand of the old days, indolent, lacking sticking qualities, and unambitious, into farmers who take an interest in their work and strive to equal the white race in farm production has been remarkable. Cleveland county could not possibly be on top of the state in cotton production today if it were not for the negroes, and in the listing of the county's many bale-to-the-acre farmers quite a number of hustling negro farmers and tenants should not be overlooked.

### THE NEGRO FARMER

FROM 1910 to 1925 the increase in negro farmers in North Carolina was greater than in any state in the union, and in the increase Cleveland county ranked 19th in the 100 counties of the state. A portion of the credit for North Carolina's agricultural advance in the last decade is rightfully credited to increased farm progress among the negroes. In like manner the negro farmers of Cleveland county, now the

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ties in which Negro farms increased had an increase of 17,371 Negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both cotton and tobacco. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt, 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 Negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the cotton-tobacco belt. The largest percent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest percent decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

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North Carolina where tenancy ratios already were excessive. In that great cash-crop belt nearly seventy percent of all farms are now operated by tenants, and the rate rises year by year. The tax problem, the school problem, the voting problems, and all other social-economic problems of that region are largely the products of excessive landlessness and homelessness."

RALEIGH, N. C. Beacon  
Tuesday, March 22, 1929

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*Stacy S. C.*  
MAR 20 1929  
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Agriculture - 1929

Condition of  
**Farm Relief Only**  
**Gloomy Generality**  
**Says Tom Connally**

Virginia

UNIVERSITY, VA., Aug. 9.—(P)—Declaring that farm relief remains a "gloomy generality" as well as a "political football," United States Senator Tom Connally, of Texas, told attendants upon the institute of public affairs of the University of Virginia here tonight that the export venture plan is the one plan that can help both to dispose of the exportable surplus of the farmer, and at the same time place him somewhat upon a plane of equality with industry.

This plan, Senator Connally explained, is based upon the theory that since the farmer must sell his goods in a world free competitive market, he should in theory be allowed to exchange in that market manufactured goods and bring them back into this country duty free. In order to obviate the mechanics and practical obstacles which would be met in such process, this plan, he said, provides that when he exports his products, the treasury will issue him a certificate and he can tender that certificate at the customs house in payment of tariff duties upon imported goods.

The Texas senator held that this plan would raise the price of the farmer's goods and would not take directly from the treasury a single dollar. It proposes, he asserted, to give back to the farmer a portion of what he charged the tariff has been continuously taking out of his pocket.

No form of legislative relief as his subject, will alone afford a cure for the ills of agriculture. In suggesting that the farmer provide most of the remedy for his salvation Senator Connally urged greater diversification and the production of articles of food and of home consumption.

Agriculture - 1929  
Condition of  
GAZETTE  
Charleston, W. Va.

JAN 20 1929

## Colored Farmers Urged to Practice Crop Rotation

### A. W. Curtis Advises Negroes to Adopt Crops to Suit Soil

Much attention has been given in recent years to the problem of giving whatever assistance might be needed by the several thousand Negro families living on farms in West Virginia. The various agriculture agencies of the state have found this field of work offering splendid opportunities for constructive effort.

In the biennial report of the state department of agriculture, which will be off the press in a few days, Professor A. W. Curtis, director of agriculture at West Virginia Collegiate Institute, gives a summary of field work conducted by the department of agriculture under his supervision last year among the colored farmers of the state as follows:

"During the past summer I was sent out by the state department of agriculture to work among the colored farmers, primarily to help them along the line of controlling insect pests and plant diseases, and secondarily to see what other service could be rendered to improve rural life in West Virginia.

"All the counties reported as having a large number of colored farmers were visited in order to make a study of their conditions. Many towns that were thickly settled were also visited in order to find what was being done to improve the homes and in growing vegetables. All of our farmers realize the great toll exacted by plant disease and insect pests every season, and in every important farming region. Insects and plant diseases constitute a heavy handicap on crop production and are a grievous and dangerous overload on our agriculture. The estimated loss from plant diseases and insects in this state is appalling.

#### Mexican Beetles

"However, our most significant activities at present are in an effort to control the Mexican bean beetle. Demonstrations were given to farmers on how to use spray and dusting mix-

tures. We taught the importance of thoroughly applying the insecticide on the under surface of the leaves. The advantage of starting the treatment early and keeping it going was kept before the farmers who were glad to have information diffused among them.

"Many of the colored farmers have rough hill land with a shale soil and sandy soils surrounded by fertile soil with limestone formation. Successful farming requires good judgment in choosing a farm and in deciding on the type of farming. The colored farmer with his limited area of rough thin hill land attempts the same type of farming as engaged in by his white neighbor who has broad acres of limestone soil well adapted to fruit, grain and grazing. If this colored farmer is to succeed he must adapt his crops to suit the soil and the climate.

"One of the first considerations that would help to determine the attitude of the farmer and his family toward farming, would be to consider his opinion of it as a mode of living. Are farm people satisfied with the farm home as a place to live? Do they prefer life on a farm to life in town? Can the farm home be made sufficiently attractive to hold the young people on the farm after they have had a taste of town life?

"Eighty per cent of the farmers were satisfied with farm life and preferred farming as a mode of living, but said if they did not engage in some other work part of the time they could not make ends meet. Part of the reason for this is that none of these farmers has any system of rotation of crops and therefore the available supply of certain elements is reduced and finally disappears almost wholly.

#### Crop Rotation

"When crops with different requirements are alternated, the food supply of the soil is kept in a more balanced condition. Alternation of deep and shallow-rooted crops overcomes the continuous use of only part of the soil. Nitrogen gathered from the air by legumes for instance, is used by other crops follow in the rotation. The Nitrogen, however, would be practically lost if legumes were raised continuously. The control of plant diseases, insect pests and weeds is made possible by the rotation of crops, economy in the use of man labor, horse labor and machinery result from the raising of a number of crops of the right kind on the farm. The plowing under of growing plants would increase the organic content of the soil and help to make available the mineral foods of the soil, in addition to aiding in correcting defects that exist in its physical nature.

If some of the foregoing methods could put into practice with a well-planned system of the use of lime and commercial fertilizers, all of these impoverished soils could be brought back to productiveness. Then the farmer could engage in farming as a means of making a living rather than merely eking out existence.

#### Young Folks Leave

"Can the farm home be made sufficiently attractive to hold the young people on the farm after they have had a taste of town life. Practically all the farms I visited were operated by men ranging from forty years old or older, with the majority in the older

class. The young people are not returning when they get a taste of town life. In conversation with a farmer about sending his boy to college he said this, "That boy is my main dependence on the farm and I don't want to lose him. I sent one off to high school and now he doesn't want to stay on the farm."

"We should not expect all successive generations of farm families to continue to live on the farm. A few of them must go to the city to help manage this great country. Our president and president-elect were reared on the farm.

"It is not always the bright lights that attract our boys and girls, but the conveniences found in the city homes. One approach to this phase of the question was to get a cross-section of the average farm household. The women had no conveniences for doing their work, no beautiful surroundings to look out upon. Sanitary methods were very poor. There was not much reading matter for the family to enjoy, recreation was very limited, washing machines, running water, bathrooms and indoor toilet facilities were found in not more than five farm homes. Being located on the farm does not prevent people from having conveniences and comforts in the home, and attractive and pleasant surroundings. In the opinion of the folk who aspired to have these things the limiting factors were money and insufficient information concerning installation of the conveniences."

Agriculture-10/29

Improvement of

## Necessity Of Efficient Marketing Facilities Pointed Out By Dr. Knapp

By P. O. DAVIS

ATMORE, ALA., Sept. 17.—(P)—Addressing a large group of Escambia County farmers here Tuesday afternoon Dr. Bradford Knapp, president of the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn, declared that if agriculture as a whole is to succeed there must be a better management of agricultural affairs, particularly along the line of marketing. He added that "one of the main advantages promised by the Federal Farm Board is better distribution and more efficient marketing of farm products and that this board is endeavoring to give maximum service to the farmers of the nation through their cooperative organizations."

Dr. Knapp said that he was "shocked and surprised" to find that the delivery of cotton to the Farm Bureau Cotton Association is not as large as it should be. "Large deliveries and large business are necessary to reduce costs and be an important factor on the market," he declared.

Continuing he said, "I wish that business men and farmers as well realized that the only way yet designed by the Congress and by the thinking people of this country to help agriculture to come back to an era of prosperity is through cooperative marketing on a large scale. The president of the United States, the Congress, the Federal Farm Board and farmers' organizations representing millions of farmers believe that this is the case. Indeed, they know it is true."

"In the past there has been a very luke-warm attitude on the part of most business men toward cooperative organizations among farmers. If the farmers of Alabama and of the United States are to get full benefit of this act it is perfectly apparent that the membership in

## Power Company To Spend Million For Expansion Of Rural Service

New Lines To Serve Approximately 2,000 People In Forty Counties; Farm Electrification Program For 1930 To Place Alabama In Front Rank Of Progressive States.

By A. B. TUCKER

Construction of 69 additional transmission lines into rural communities of the matter of electrification of the farms. Alabama to serve approximately 2,000 During the past year hundreds of homes new customers in 40 counties have been in small towns as well as out on farms authorized by officials of the Alabama Power Company, according to information given out by the Birmingham office. The cost of this construction is estimated to run about the million dollar electric motor.

In many communities the water for home and barn is now being pumped by an electrically driven machine instead of the noisy gasoline engine or the more

Alabama.

laborious hand power pump. Small municipal plants or those operated on a small scale by local individuals have been supplanted by the hydro-electric transmission lines which bring the current from one of the dams on the Coosa or Tallapoosa Rivers.

Water which formerly moved limpidly along toward the Gulf furnishing only fishing streams for anglers is now turning the wheels of industry and lighting thousands of Alabama homes.

"I want to say this: No longer can men sit on dry goods boxes in town and advise farmers to stay out of cooperative organizations; no longer can the influence of great business organizations be used against the organization of farmer-1930, lines projected for completion at the end of the current year and lines for marketing and handling farm products. Now such action would be 1930 can boast of 442 strictly rural lines against the policy of the government extending 1,446 miles and serving 9,841 The government has declared its policy customers in all but nine of the 67 counties and if we are to solve the problems of the state, surely we will place ourselves in line with the policy of the government, which

is to create farmers' associations for marketing.

"If we are going to get anywhere in Alabama and keep up with the procession, we must have a better balanced agriculture and produce on the average farm more than just cotton—as important as cotton is. Then we must belong to and avail ourselves of the services of every national organization perfected by the government to help farmers such as this Federal Farm Board, the Intermediate Credit Banks, etc. To do this we must be organized into cooperative organizations of farmers and the quicker business men, bankers, and farmers realize this and begin to develop the intelligence, the ability and the confidence necessary to deal in this way, the quicker we are going to get results."

Counties to get service under the 1930 program are Autauga, Baldwin, Barbour, Blount, Butler, Calhoun, Chambers, Clay, Colbert, Coosa, Cullman, DeKalb, Elmore, Escambia, Etowah, Fayette, Franklin, Geneva, Hale, Henry, Jackson, Jefferson, Lamar, Lauderdale, Lawrence, Lee, Limestone, Macon, Madison, Marengo, Mobile, Montgomery, St. Clair, Shelby, Sumpter, Talladega, Tallapoosa, Tuscaloosa and Wilcox.

The seven counties scheduled to receive their first rural service between now and the end of next year are Clay, Cullman, DeKalb, Henry, Russell, Wilcox and Winston.

Here are some of the interesting facts brought out in the power company's report, all of which tend to show the increasing popularity of electricity in rural sections, how this modern force is removing farm home drudgery and what it is doing to make "farming an industry."

Jefferson County Leads

Jefferson County leads the state in number of customers and existing lines, having a total of 56 lines and 2,444 customers, while Mobile County is second in number of lines, having 28. Fourteen additional lines will be built in Jefferson between now and Dec. 31, 1930, while Mobile County is scheduled to get four new lines during the same period of time.

Elmore County is second in point of customers, with a total of 353.

Three hundred and five cotton gins are electrified. Of this number 92 are classed as strictly rural gins, while 213 are located in cities or small communities.

Thirty-five additional gins will be electrified in 1930, bringing the total to 340, which is probably the largest number in any cotton growing state.

To determine the extent to which farm homes utilize electric service, the Com-

pany's Rural Division surveyed 3,031 customers and found 20 types of devices in use, including 86 churbs, 392 fans, 2,089 irons, 442 ranges, 383 radios, 309 refrigerators, 59 sewing machines, 60 washing machines, 493 pumps and 47 water heaters.

Other appliances in use are battery chargers, curling irons, dish washers, grills, hot plates, percolators, heaters, toasters, vacuum cleaners and waffle irons.

## Cotton Acreage Curb Coming, Says Williams

*Advertiser*  
Cooperative Marketing Demands It, Farmers Are Told

600 Hear Talk Of Farm Board Member At Auditorium

Banding together in a cooperative organization is the only way the cotton farmers of the South will get any help from the Government, or will be able to help themselves according to the message brought by Carl Williams of the federal farm board to an assemblage of 600 Alabamians interested in agriculture at the City Auditorium Thursday morning.

Mr. Williams said that cooperation in marketing will ultimately result in complete control of surplus agricultural products, including cotton and that eventually control of production will be brought about. Mr. Williams made this statement in answer to a question of E. A. Keeler of Montgomery who wanted to know if the government could extend aid to the farmer without control of surpluses and control of production.

"The farm board does not believe there is too much cotton," said Mr. Williams, "but on the other hand believes, and has said, that cotton is too low."

Mr. Williams said the farm board is ready to lend money on cotton at 16 cents a pound because the government believes cotton is worth that much. "And we are lending from a revolving fund," said Mr. Williams. "A revolving fund means that the money must come back to the government and it must come back with interest."

Mr. Williams reached the auditorium meeting forty minutes late as a result of a plane in which he was making the trip to Montgomery being forced down at Tuskegee because of rain and low

visibility. When he arrived he found Edward A. O'Neal, Dr. Bradford Knapp Gov. Graves, Lieut. Gov. W. C. Davis, L. N. Duncan and Tyler Goodwyn occupying the stage and waiting for him.

Edward O'Neal, President of the Alabama Farm Bureau, presided. He called on Tyler Goodwyn, representing the City and Gov. Graves, representing the State, to welcome the speaker. He asked Dr. Bradford Knapp to introduce Mr. Williams because of the long friendship existing between Dr. Knapp and the federal board member.

Dr. Knapp paid Mr. Williams a high compliment and said he was sincere in his efforts to aid agriculture and the cotton farmer and that he had the ability to be of assistance in the crisis now confronting the cotton farmer.

Pioneer Step.

Mr. Williams began by saying "This is the first time any government in the history of the world has ever set up a fund from the pockets of its taxpayers to aid any one industry. It is the first time public money has ever been used to benefit a class. It is proposed to lift this industry, agriculture, out of the depression. And I can tell you the farm board members represent the farmers and nobody else. Some have called this bill the 'Farm Relief' bill. But there is nothing in the bill about farm relief. It is an agricultural marketing act. The bill gives the broadest power it is possible to give to the members of the farm board. It has the word 'may' running all through it and only once does the word 'shall' appear and that is when the bill says the members of the board shall not speculate in agricultural products.

Six And Half Million.

"We have made a study and it shows farmers in 48 states and dependencies with an output of 12 1-2 billions of dollars worth of agricultural products each year. And our survey and study shows that every agricultural crop has its own particular set of problems and all different. The problem of the apple grower of Oregon is not that of the rice grower of Louisiana nor is the problem of the wheat farmer of the West the problem of the cotton grower of the South. I think that perhaps cotton presents the hardest problem of them all. Cotton is grown under varying conditions and from excess rainfall to irrigation. There is every type of cotton farmer and every type of soil and every type of credit."

Acreage Big Problem.

"And the cotton problem varies in different localities. One of our big problems, maybe the biggest is the increase in cotton acreage. There has been a 50 per cent increase in acreage since 1920. And while the acreage East of the Mississippi River has stood about the same, the acreage West of the river has increased enormously."

"The acreage of cotton in the United States is divided 65 per cent West of the Mississippi River and 35 per cent East of the river. The reason for the big increase in acreage in Texas and Oklahoma west of the river is the cost of production. It costs five cents more per pound as an average East of the river and in some instances the difference is 10 cents per pound. The difference in production costs is the dif-

ference in the land. West of the river competition and that is another big problem. They don't have to spend money on fertilizer. The land is level, has less rain fall which reduces the cost of working the crop because the grass don't grow fast. And the Western farmer will work 120 acres of cotton by himself in many instances. The average acreage farmed by one man West of the river is 50 while East of the river it is 20."

"Now what would the federal farm board do if it fixed the price of cotton? To make a fair price that would enable the farmer East of the river to make money the price would be so high that it would be exorbitant for the farmer West of the river. And while the acreage West of the river has increased enormously, there are 19,000,000 more acres out there covered with buffalo grass now and not in production that would be opened up and planted to cotton if the price was above a reasonable profit. And in this connection then."

I want to call your attention to the fact that the quality of cotton is declining year by year. And the decline in quality is greater in the Southeast than it is west of the river. *11429*

"Now as we get back to the important subject of marketing I want to say that we can only help those who help themselves. The farm board is compelled to do business with the cooperative farm organizations. And that is where the farmer can help himself, by banding himself with these organizations to produce orderly marketing. The farm problem began in 1820 when animal drawn farm machinery was invented. Then the farmer began to make more than he could consume himself and the problem was the surplus. And he has gone on making more and more with more and more modern and improved machinery and the problem of the surplus has grown rapidly.

"Now the problem of how to dispose of what we do not need is the old problem the farmers have faced. Not in sixty years have farmers made anything off their productions. Their profits have grown from the increased value of their lands. But we must realize that land is worth no more than it will yield in produce at a fair profit. The farmer must make money out of his production rather than out of increased land value. It is the question of orderly marketing which we must work out to make it possible for the farmer to make a profit on what he produces."

#### Farmers Must Unite

"The government has authorized a \$500,000,000 revolving fund. That money was given to us to use as an instrument and not as an end. That money was for the benefit of the class, the agricultural class! And that class must organize to get the benefit of that money. No money has ever been appropriated to a class that ever did any good unless the class was organized to receive it and use it. And so it is with the farmer. We are lending money to such organizations as the Alabama Farm Bureau and the Alabama Farm Bureau Cotton Association, such as you have here. There are 2,100,000 farmers growing cotton from the sheep expert of Montgomery County, North Carolina to California. Manifestly it is impossible for us to deal with each of these individually so we deal with the farm organization."

Mr. Williams called attention to the cheap cotton that is being raised in India by ten cents per day labor. "And the quality of this Indian cotton is improving and we are having to meet this rily, but in the long run one of our aims

is the control of surplus and production."

Answering another question Mr. Williams told Mr. Beeler that the proper way for farmers to insure economically conducted cooperative organizations was to join them and take part in their af- fairs.

them we could not help them until they got together. And they have gotten together and they will control 60 per cent of the wheat crop of the world before they get through and then they can fix the price, or at least be on even terms with the buyer. And that is what you farmer with the buyer. And that is what you with the buyer. And that is what you farmer West of the river. And while must do with your cotton organizations. There are eleven of them now but I hope by this time next year you will have more acres out there covered with buffalo grass now and not in production your cotton and that it will be sold that would be opened up and planted through one man. Then you will be on to cotton if the price was above a reasonable profit. And in this connection then."

"And the act gives us not only power to deal with cooperative organizations,"

declining year by year. And the decline in quality is greater in the Southeast than it is west of the river. *11429*

to exercise supervision over them. In other words when we lend them money back and we are going to see to it that the cooperatives run their organizations efficiently and economically and to the direct benefit of the farmers who are members and who compose them. We propose to have examiners, something like national bank examiners, who will look into the affairs of these cooperative organizations to which we extend financial aid."

"We must have a partnership between the government and the farmer," said Mr. Williams. "We cannot help you unless you evince a willingness to be helped and meet us half way. And the way for you to get help is to join your cooperative cotton association right now. You will notice that cotton is falling in New York. It is falling because of the disorganized selling of cotton on the market. And I want to let you know now when you join a cooperative we are going to lend money only on that cotton that is pooled seasonally. We are not going to lend money on cotton that is pooled optionally, that is where the owner can order it sold at any time he sees fit."

#### Appeals For Aid

Concluding his address, Mr. Williams said, "I come to ask for your aid. I come in the interest of the cotton farmer. I want the aid of the cotton farmer and the Farm Board wants the aid of the cotton farmer."

At the conclusion of his speech, Mr. Williams answered three or four questions from the audience. He told Baldwin County Irish potato growers that the Farm Board could do nothing for them because their problem was a local problem but the government, he said, will take up Irish potatoes as a commodity and with a nationwide outlook upon the problem and endeavor to solve it.

"Do you think," asked E. A. Beeler, sheep expert of Montgomery County, "that farm aid can be effectually given without control of the surplus and without control of production in the long run?"

"In the long run," answered Mr. Williams, "I would say it cannot. In the short run it can. We can help temporarily and we are having to meet this rily, but in the long run one of our aims

Agriculture-1929

Improvement as

Alabama.

## Alabamian Suggests New Farm Equalization Plan

By J. F. DUGGAR, Jr.  
Montgomery, Ala.

To place agriculture on an economic equality basis; these credit papers would be received by the Federal Government in payment for prosperity of the nation. Evidence of the import duties on items of agriculture and sincere efforts to accomplish this most complicated duty to be specified by the law. They could solution is found in the passage during the last session of Congress of the McNary-Haugen rates only on articles such as steel, clothes, bill, which would now be a law except for the manufactured cotton and silk goods, sulphate veto of President Coolidge.

Another noteworthy proposal for farm relief is the Debenture Plan, which was embodied in the Ketchum bill, presented to the last Congress. The plan was endorsed by the National Grange; the McNary-Haugen bill was supported by the Farm Bureau.

The strong and the weak points of both plans have been ably presented by their advocates and critics, and hence this paper refrains from discussing the ~~weak points of either~~.

In spite of the prohibition in the Federal Constitution against the levying of an export duty, eminent economists have quoted decisions of the Supreme Court that seem to sustain the par value, say 90 or 95 per cent, would be constitutionality of the main feature of the specified by law below which such debentures Debenture bill. Indeed many authorities believe that its constitutional difficulties are less serious than those of the other bill mentioned.

The Debenture Plan provides a means for granting to the growers of certain agricultural products which are not protected by an existing tariff.

A hypothetical example of the Board's activities which are not protected by an existing tariff will now be described. Suppose the Liverpool a financial advantage, under certain limited pool cotton market is to be 15 cents (freight conditions that would serve to place such producers on an economic equality with manufacturers now protected by the tariff. The essential feature is the paying of a bonus on certain agricultural exports.

The writer's analysis of both plans have led him to the conclusion that the best features of each can be consolidated into one bill, without including those details that have encoun-

The necessary machinery may well be almost exporter. As the price consequently advances entirely the same as proposed in the McNary-Haugen bill. First, there would be necessary a conservative tariff on the agricultural commodities to be equalized with industry, as in the McNary-Haugen plan. In the second place, let it be supposed that after a series of such purchases from the surplus the price of cotton had advanced to 18 cents on the New

The first or fundamental deviation would be in the matter as to when the Farm Board should export agricultural commodities. Under the Duggar Plan, here outlined, a surplus its licensees would cease to export under such conditions as existing in a commodity whenever the tariff on that commodity was protected by the tariff. (That part of the tariff not fully effective; under such conditions the might be made effective).

Farm Board would be required to export that commodity, (directly or through licensed exporters) on which the tariff should then be not market becoming less than the amount of the fully effective. It would be enabled to do this effective tariff assumed here to be 3 cents, the by means of funds obtainable in the manner Farm Board would again export cotton until outlined below, in which detail lies the heart of the price in the United States should rise to the point where a 3 cent differential should again have been attained.

From time to time as may be fixed in the law, the Farm Board would raise such funds by offering for public competitive sale its Debentures; these credit papers would be received by the Federal Government in payment for the prosperity of the nation. Evidence of the import duties on items of agriculture and sincere efforts to accomplish this most complicated duty to be specified by the law. They could solution is found in the passage during the last session of Congress of the McNary-Haugen rates only on articles such as steel, clothes, bill, which would now be a law except for the manufactured cotton and silk goods, sulphate veto of President Coolidge.

ammonia, the agricultural commodities that ought to be equalized, and in general all imports that compete seriously with American production. They would not be received in payment of duty on raw silk, tea, coffee and other imports not competing with American products.

Accordingly the Farm Board would export the agricultural commodities that are to be equalized whenever the tariff on these commodities is not in full operation and when the financial deficit of the board due to the export

met through the sale of debentures of the nature, eminent economists have quoted decisions of the Supreme Court that seem to sustain the par value, say 90 or 95 per cent, would be constitutionality of the main feature of the specified by law below which such debentures Debenture bill. Indeed many authorities believe that its constitutional difficulties are less serious than those of the other bill mentioned.

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Let it now be supposed in the above case fixed differential (tariff equivalent) in favor of the price of foreign and domestic cotton the American agricultural producer.

warranted the Farm Board in exporting cotton, but that upon offering debentures for sale Bill are claimed for the Duggar Plan:

to the public it was found that the debentures would not bring the minimum price specified and hence, no class pressure could be brought by law. In this case the Farm Board would to bear on the Farm Board in this matter.

have no funds with which to export cotton at a loss and hence, for the time being, it could disrupted, since when acting under the license not itself make exports.

of the Board they would export as usual, and for the temporary periods when they should be

What would be the economic condition of come in effect agents for the Farm Board they industry that would cause no demand for debentures, and hence a temporary inability of the Farm Board to export agricultural com-

modities? Such a disabling condition could be due to but one thing, namely, surplus production in the industries with which agricul-

ture is to be equalized. Here agriculture would cease to need relief, it and industry being on an act, at least in the main, as broker for the sale

an economic parity, both having a surplus and of debentures, and the proceeds would be used neither being effectively protected by current directly and in the most effective way to ele-

tariff schedule. However, the instant the industrial surplus was relieved, and the protective tariff again became effective for industry, a demand would be created for debentures,

by the sale of which the board would be able to resume exporting and then again to relieve

agriculture of its surplus, until domestic prices are overcome in the Duggar Plan. May we not assume its essential features might meet

tection by this indirect form of tariff. Through the approval of President Hoover, since it is in such balance and industry true equalization effect an extension to agriculture of his general tariff policies?

It is self-evident that all the agricultural commodities which are to be equalized with industry should receive, when distressed by temporary over-production, its due share of the proceeds from the sale of debentures.

The relative efficiency of this plan would become greater as the tariff soars higher and higher.

Finally the combination into one bill of the conflicting measures sponsored by the Farm

Bureau and the National Grange should occupy a strategic legislative and political position.

## Orion Ginning Season Is Opened By Negro

ORION, ALA., Aug. 21. (Special)—Orion opened its ginning season Tuesday, the first bale being ginned for Willis Parham, negro farmer on the plantation of W. B. Colmar and Son. The first bales from this section were produced by A. G. McLeod and carried to Troy the past week for ginning.

## Dothan Extends Electric Lines

### Power Company's Rural Projects No Interference

DOOTHAN, ALA., May 31. (Special)—With all differences adjusted and a thorough working agreement reached, the City of Dothan and the Alabama Power Company are both going forward with extension and expansion plans as origi-

ally mapped out. What appeared Wednesdays to be a rift in the friendly relations existing between the municipality and the corporation developed into a little misunderstanding. Dothan parties returned home satisfied of less than 100, that the present system of lighting ato sell the city plant to the Alabama Power Company. This is done on what prove a sale of the plant at a price of

Montgomery tonight. Discussing the expansion program upon

The voters of Dothan, by a majority is known as a "switchboard" contract, \$2,000,000. In this election the sale was slightly over 500.

The City of Dothan owns its own distribution system and also owns a steam generating plant which is kept in a stand-by condition while the current is supplied from the hydro-electric system of the Alabama Power Company.

The city was Dothan customers. This is done on what prove a sale of the plant at a price of

The combination into one bill of the conflicting measures sponsored by the Farm Bureau and the National Grange should occupy a strategic legislative and political position.

Following this settlement the Public Service Com-the Alabama Power Company. The interested parties reached an agreement to sell the city plant to the Alabama Power Company. This is done on what prove a sale of the plant at a price of

trans. developing, consequently a petition was prepared to ask the Alabama Public Service Commission to intervene.

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## Amherstburg Improvement Assn. Almon Suggests New Farm Equalization Plan

# Alabamian Suggests

By J. F. DUGGAR, Jr.  
Montgomery, Ala.

To place agriculture on an economic equality with, and in-  
with industry is essential to the permanent welfare of the country. Evidence of the sin-  
prosperity of the nation. Evidence of the sin-  
ers efforts to accomplish this most complicated industry to be specified by the law. They could  
be made usable in paying import duty for tariff  
articles such as steel, clothes  
and other articles.

him to the conclusion that the bill, with all the details of each can be consolidated into one bill, which may cover it. Therefore the Farm Board would not include those details that have been proposed, the Farm Board would automatically buy, in the domestic market, the greatest opposition especially to the equalization fee. This proposed consolidation constitutes the plan here presented in briefest outline.

the McNary-Haugen bill runs cotton had advanced to 15 cents a Farm Board should be constituted while remaining equal to York market (freight being equal to Liverpool market the Farm Board in that bill.

would be considered as existing ...  
ty whenever the tariff on that commodity was protected by ...  
not fully effective; under such conditions the might be different  
Farm Board would be required to export that ... But in the event of the different  
commodity, (directly or through licensed ex- equalized between the foreign and  
porters) on which the tariff should then be not market becoming less than the to be ?  
It would be enabled to do this effective tariff assumed here to be ?  
fully effective. It would again export ...  
by means of funds obtainable in the manner Farm Board would again export ...  
outlined below, in which detail lies the heart of the price in the United States should  
this plan.

again have been attained.

## ~~Dothan Extends Electric Line~~

on Gunning Season  
Is Opened By Negro

21—Siegeln, for Will  
Orion opened its running season Tues-  
day the first. He is being run for the plan-  
tation. Petham, negro, farmer on the plan-  
tation. W. B. Tommar and A. B. B.  
first calls from the section were pro-  
duced by A. G. McLeod and Sam  
McLeod for running.

## ~~Troy the past week for a Dothan Extends Electric Line~~

Power Company's Rural  
Projects No Interference

Finally mapped out. What appeared Wednesday to be a rift in the friendly relations existing between the municipality and the corporation developed into only a little misunderstanding.

The City of Dothan is building transmission lines along seven highways leading into the town for the purpose of supplying electric lights and the power to customers living beyond the city limits, but within the police jurisdiction. Wednesday a crew of Alabama Power Company men began the construction of a transmission line along the Cottonwood road parallel with the line under construction by the power company had an eye to the bu

ness in this section which the city was developing, consequently a petition was prepared to ask the Alabama Public Service Commission to intervene. When the interested parties reached a settlement without the intervention of the Public Service Commission. Following this settlement the Dothan parties returned home satisfied. Under the present system of lighting, Dothan the city purchases electric energy from the Alabama Power Company at a wholesale and distributes the current to which time the voters of L

This is done on what prove a sale  
"witchboard" contract \$2,000,000. In this election the  
n owns its own dis-against the sale was slightly over 500.  
n also owns a steam The first election was held following an  
ich is kept in a stand-agreement, it is stated, with the power  
e the current is sup-company that they would pay \$1,600,000  
dro-electric system of for the properties. The later election was  
er Company. held without an offer. *Montgomery*  
Dothan, by a majority Discussing the expansion program upon  
adversed a proposition his return from Montgomery tonight  
nt to the Alabama Pow-Mayor Ezell stated that the city is going  
price fixed at \$1,600,- right ahead with its expansion program  
er election was held at and that the Alabama Power Company  
oters were asked to ap-would proceed with its plans for extension

and expansion of the system into the rural sections of the state. Rural electrification, it is stated, has long been the policy of the power company and "there is no conflict here," stated the mayor.

## Negro Farmer Lays His Success Upon Attention To Work

FORT DEPOSIT, ALA., June 17.—(Special)—West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, one of many negro farmers of the South who makes farming a success on the small scale.

In reply to a question as to how he made farming a success, he said:

"First, I attend to my own business and let the others alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help to make it self-sustaining, using the cotton I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass-growing season and Sundays we spend worshiping the Great Giver."

"I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all our obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."

West operates a four-horse farm and never fails to harvest an abundance of corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, sugarcane and all minor crops. Also he has a nice herd of cattle and hogs from which he realizes a nice profit. He raises something that brings him in a little money every month during the year.

### A SUCCESSFUL NEGRO FARMER

West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South that make farming a success on the small scale. Replying to a question as to how he made farming a success? His answer was, "first, I attend to my own business and let the other fellows alone. I plant about everything that will grow on a farm that will help make it self-sustaining, using the cotton I make as a surplus crop only. The members of my family and myself do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass growing season, and Sundays we spend worshipping the great Giver. I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel, is the secret of my success." West operates a four horse farm, and never fails to make a plenty of corn, cotton, peas, potatoes, sugar cane and all minor crops; he also has a nice herd of cattle and hogs from which he realizes a nice profit from several times a year. This negro farmer stated that he sold something he raised in the farm which would bring him in a little money every month during the year. Lowndes County farmers would be better off if its negro farmers would emulate the example set by West Hare.

Lowndes County Signal.

## Cotton Acreage In Alabama In 1929 Largest Since 1914

MONTGOMERY, Ala., July 16.—(AP)—Alabama farmers planted more cotton this year than in any year since 1914, a report issued by F. W. Gist, state and federal agricultural statistician here, showed. Increases in the acreage of oats, sweet potatoes and soy beans were shown while a majority of other major crops showed decreases.

A total of 7,715,000 acres were placed in cultivation this year, compared with 7,615,000 during 1928.

The report follows in detail:

"The aggregate crop acreage this year is 100,000 greater than that planted last year. The acreage to cotton is four per cent greater, while corn is reduced by one per cent. Hay is off nearly 5 per cent, while peanuts planted alone show a 7 per cent loss. Oats were increased 56 per cent and sweet potatoes 1 per cent. Irish potatoes dropped off slightly more than 18 per cent. Sorghum for syrup lost a thousand acres, which sugar cane gained. Soy beans gained 7,000 acres and cowpeas lost 3,000. These two figures refer to the acreage of these crops planted alone and do not include that planted with corn. Truck crops, not including both kinds of potatoes, lost 3,000 acres.

"The acreage planted to cotton is the largest since 1914.

"While the prospective production of corn this year is greater than last, it is still about four million bushels under the ten-year average, and will be inadequate. The condition of corn on July 1 was 76 per cent normal, compared with 60 per cent last year and a ten-year average of 79. The probable production, based on the July condition, is 37,981,000 bushels, which compares with 30,475,000 bushels harvested last year and with an average harvest of 41,735,000 for the past ten years. The farmers of Alabama seem determined to produce less corn than they need for farm consumption and buy out of their cotton money any shortage they may sustain.

"The average yield of oats this year was considerably better than last, being 20 bushels to the acre compared with 17.5 bushels last year and a ten-year average of 18.6. The total production this year was 2,587,000 bushels during the past ten years.

"The probable condition of hay this year also is very disappointing. The condition of hay on July 1 was 77 per cent of normal, indicating a production of 454,000 tons. The condition last year was 75 and the production was 473,000 tons, while the ten-year average production has been 485,000 tons.

"The average yield of potatoes this year was 81 bushels per acre, compared with 77 last year and a

ten year average of 80; but owing to the severe reduction in acreage the production this year was only 2,185,000 bushels compared with 2,812,000 bushels last year and a ten year average of 2,394,000 bushels.

"Sweet potato production promises greater than last year, but less than the ten year average. The condition was 78 per cent of normal, compared with 73 last year and 82 for the ten year average, while the probable production is 6,756,000 bushels this year compared with 6,510,000 last year, and 6,965 for the ten year average.

"The production of apples this year promises a marked reduction. The condition on July 1 was only 36 compared with 60 last year and 58 for the ten year average. The probable production is 533,000 bushels this year compared with 885,000 last year and 834,00 for the ten year average.

"Peaches are much worse. The condition was only 30 and the production 540,000 bushels this year, whereas the condition last year was 76 and the production 1,350,000 bushels.

The production of pears is unpromising, with 157,000 bushels in prospect against 234,000 bushels last year and the year average of 170,000 bushels.

"Peanuts show a slightly better prospect than last year with a condition of 77 against 74 and a ten-year average of 80. The production depends both on the acreage finally harvested and the continuation of the present prospect.

"Soy beans, which mostly go into hay, show a condition of 76 against 72 last year and 80 for the past ten years.

"Cowpeas give a condition of 71 compared with 70 last year and 77 for the ten year average.

"Sorghum and sugar cane are much better than last year, with a condition of 72 and 71, respectively, against 64 and 65 last year. The production depends on the acreage finally harvested for syrup.

"Pastures are slightly above the ten year average with a condition of 84 compared with 83 during the past ten years.

Altogether the composite crop condition in Alabama, not including cotton, is about two per cent above the ten year average. The weather has been on the whole favorable for planting and cultivation and crop growth has responded accordingly. Some exceptions are apparent here and there, due to local conditions. Farmers have started the year with vigor and optimism and if influences continue favorable the final harvest will be well up to expectation."

## J'NEAL ADDRESSES FARMERS OF MACON

### Value Of Organized Effort Is Pointed Out; Value Of Co-operation Revealed

TUSKEGEE, ALA., Oct. 1.—(Special) "I firmly believe that through organization we farmers can add four to five billion dollars to our annual farm income," declared Edward A. O'Neal, president of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, when speaking to a county-wide meeting for farmers of Macon County at a meeting in the courthouse here today. "I plant about everything that will grow to my own business and let the other fellow do all the farm work, working six days a week during the grass growing season, and Sunday we spend worshipping the great Giver. I have

said this "would mean \$750 a year more for each farm family now living on farms in the United States."

The meeting was called to order at 10 o'clock by T. W. Allen, county agent, who presided and introduced President

O'Neal as the principal speaker. At the meeting the Macon County Farm Bureau was reorganized with D. W. Hurst, Shorter, president; Ira D. Vall, Armstrong, vice president; W. M. Zackery, Notasulga, secretary-treasurer, and Grace Bell, assistant secretary. J. A. Beaty, director of field service of the Alabama Farm Bureau Federation, was present and discussed the plan the farm bureau has formulated for giving each member a life insurance policy. Ninety per cent of those present at the meeting became members of the farm bureau after hearing the discussions by Mr

O'Neal and Mr. Beaty.

President O'Neal declared that "the credit system of the South is the greatest curse of agriculture in the cotton producing states. The condition under which most of the cotton is sold makes the producer the least important in the marketing system."

### Credit System Scored

"This system is a curse to the land owner, tenant, merchant and banker; it is holding our whole section back. The cotton market is glutted," Mr. O'Neal declared.

Cotton marketing associations, he said, thus far have had a short lived period of experience but altogether have done an immense amount of good to the cotton marketing system in the South. Today, however, they are in a better position to serve the cotton farmers than ever before, he stated.

In this connection President O'Neal quoted Carl Williams, a cotton member of the Federal Farm Board, when he said: "The board feels that every farmer should belong to a cooperative marketing association handling his product which he raises if there is one in his neighborhood and if there is none, the farmers should help to organize one on a sound conservative basis. The board further feels that it is to the interest of farmers to belong to, work in, and use for many purposes other than cooperative marketing and the general farm organization in his territory whose leadership and purpose are for the best interests of the farmers of that territory."

Turning to the farm relief bill, President O'Neal said that "orderly marketing, surplus control and the Federal Farm Board are three things included in the declaration of policy of the recently enacted farm relief bill." For one spoke to the farmers about the farm relief bill the farm board and the farm problems now facing agriculture. He is optimistic over the future of agriculture if farmers will organize and stick to their organization.

### A SUCCESSFUL NEGRO FARMER

West Hare, a Lowndes County negro farmer who owns and operates a farm near Calhoun, is one of many negro farmers of the South that make farming a success on the small scale. We spend worshipping the great Giver. I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."

"I have always taught my children to respect our white people who are worthy and meet all obligations promptly. Hard, faithful and honest work, attending to my own business, I feel are secrets of my success."

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*Agriculture - 1929*

~~Improvement of~~  
~~SOME RULES FOR FARMERS~~

Dr. Andrew M. Soule, president of the Georgia College of Agriculture, has published a set of ~~twentysix~~ <sup>24</sup> rules for farmers, "predicated upon fundamentally sound economic doctrines," which are well worth passing along. That Dr. Soule knows whereof he speaks when he discusses agriculture any Georgia newspaper will testify. One of them, *The Macon Telegraph*, says of him: "When he says this is good for the farmer, it usually proves to be good. When he says this is bad, it is usually bad."

Dr. Soule prefaces his set of rules with the statement that there is not a suggestion among them that is not "entirely practical and therefore usable." In offering these rules, he does so to insure a better home and home life for the farmer and to promote his financial emancipation, which, he says, "centers around his ability to develop his land acceptably, diversify his crops to a sufficient degree, build up and develop a modern, efficient home and home life, and so become economically independent and self-contained."

The program he suggests is as follows:

1. Set up a sound, concrete plan of both upon the farm and in the home each year.

2. Inaugurate activities calculated to insure a better home and home life.

3. Make "live at home" your motto and adhere to it in the future.

4. Grow at least one major and two minor money-crops each season.

5. Intensify your production all along the line.

6. Use only high-grade fertilizers in such amounts as experience demonstrates will pay best.

7. Send your children to the best consolidated, vocational school available, thus amplifying the mind of the child and giving it an essential command over terrestrial things.

8. See that your boys and girls join and participate in the work of a 4-H club. This will add zest and variety to their work.

9. Take a good daily, church and professional paper. This represents a capital investment you cannot afford to over-look.

10. Participate in all worth while citizenship development projects in your community and county. Be a booster; not a pessimist.

11. Support your local church actively.

along spiritual and fundamental lines.

12. Set up and maintain an adequate soil-building program. The soil represents your paramount capital. Conserve and increase its potentialities.

13. Cooperate in buying, transporting, selling, and marketing your surplus. There is not one which farmers of Alabama may not appropriate for their own application.

14. Raise enough livestock of every kind to meet your needs. Have a sub-for daily radio service as a source of substantial surplus of meat, milk, hay, pork, chickens and eggs for sale at the right upon education, scientific research, and season of the year.

15. Make "quality" production your motto. You will then always find a ready and profitable market for goods of this character.

16. Be open-minded, progressive, unprejudiced, sympathetic. These attributes point the way to progress.

17. "Strive to make the best better." Idealism is essential to success in every line.

18. Introduce the pursuit of some new and proven worth while economic practice.

19. Purchase and install some new piece of permanent equipment or labor-saving device for use upon the farm and in the farm home.

20. Save some money, even if it be only a dollar a week. Think what it will amount to in 20 weeks. Always keep in mind "the drops of water and the grains of sand."

21. Save the trees and plant five for every one you destroy. Keep fire out of the woodland.

22. Use Georgia State College of Agriculture for daily radio service as a source of dependable, up-to-the-minute information upon education, scientific research, and the general solution of the problems of the farm and farm home.

23. Remember, that economic independence constitutes the goal which the successful farmer should always be striving to attain.

24. The farm undoubtedly still affords a capable, industrious lover of the open country who applies himself with skill and 1928.

25. The results of our Master Farmers with the most limited resources at their command can accomplish success through

steady application.

26. Surely, it is not inappropriate to say in the face of these facts, "Go Thou and Do Likewise."

These suggestions are offered by Dr. Soule to the farmers of Georgia, but there

member, that the motto of our country, "Pluribus Unum," calls for the active coop-and use. All that is necessary for ap-

eration of all in order that our mutual interests may always be properly safeguarded and protected against aggression.

in this State should read: "Use the Alabama Polytechnic Institute at Auburn

kind to meet your needs. Have a sub-for daily radio service as a source of de-

strial surplus of meat, milk, hay, pork, chickens and eggs for sale at the right upon education, scientific research, and

the general solution of the problems of

the farm and farm home."

**Progress Made In Electrification Of**

## Alabama Rural Homes Past Year

**New Customers Added To Alabama Power Co. List At Rate Of**

**187 Per Month; Thirty Dairymen Install Complete Re-**

**frigerating Machines Operated By Electricity**

annually. This saving represents the

AUBURN, ALA., Jan. 31—(Special)—The electrification of Alabama farms and farm homes made remarkable pro-

gress in Alabama in 1928 when new customers were added at the rate of 187 per month, the work being done by the Alabama Power Company in cooperation with the experiment station and extension service of the Alabama

Polytechnic Institute.

An official report reveals that 867 of farmers the goal is to make electricity miles of rural electric lines were in profitable as well as convenient. For

they were serving 2,000 customers. At

the same time 40 additional lines were under construction or had been authorized. When complete these lines will add 143.97 miles to those completed before the end of 1928; and they will serve 630 customers making a grand total of 6584.

Data on the work were compiled by

E. C. Easter chief agricultural engineer of the Alabama Power Company, Birmingham. Mr. Easter has been connected with the work continuously from its beginning. His report reveals that

rural transmission lines have been extended into 44 of the 67 counties.

Progress of the work in 1928 was greatly in excess of either of the four former years of rural electrification in Alabama. The average for the five years (1924 to 1928 inclusive) was 95 custom-

ers per month, this being approximately one half the number added monthly in 1928.

As an example of the economic ad-

vantages of it, Mr. Easter said that 80 dairymen installed complete refrigerat-

ing machines during 1928 and that the operation of these machines is saving

these 30 dairymen approximately \$15,000

ing system and who with Mr. Easter and members of the animal husbandry department has developed an improved refrigerator for dairying.

Farmers having the service have found new uses for it and it is advancing along economical lines as well as in the fields of culture and service. Tenants as well as landlords have been benefitted by it.

Throughout the state farm people are eager to have hydro-electricity and the plan is to extend it to other rural communities as rapidly as it is economical and feasible to do so.

Wherever electricity has gone satisfied farmers are found. With it farm people can have the conveniences of city life plus the advantages of living in the country.

## 200 Ginners

### Attend Meet

#### Decide On Low Production Cost For Competition

*Advertiser* ~~Montgomery~~ <sup>2/14/29</sup> ~~Montgomery~~ <sup>ala</sup> millers.

seed buyer, farmers and a sprinkling of business men are representing nearly 200 in number attended the fifth annual convention of the Alabama Ginners' Association held in the auditorium of the Jefferson Davis Hotel yesterday and today.

Men of prominence in these various lines came from Dothan and the Tennessee Valley, and met three scientists from Washington, D. C., who came here especially to discuss the present condition and situation of cotton ginning, cotton seed and its relation to farmers and dealers.

That Alabama farmers, faced with a high cost of growing, must adopt all measures to lower the cost of production in competition with Texas and the West, was a matter not for argument, but of common agreement in that means must be devised to give the farmer more

#### Dairy Men Effect Saving.

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in extension of electric power to rural communities in order that farmers might know more about the farm people and also know more about how to use it to the best advantage.

This research work has been done by Prof. M. L. Nichols who has had pat-

ented a sterilizer developed a solar neat-

returns from his cotton.

This question was approached from a number of angles by the experts from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, at Washington, who have been giving especial study to this question and who added the weight of research to the convention and its discussions.

#### Farmers Penalized

Dr. B. F. Youngblood, in charge of cotton marketing research showed by figures that Southern farmers were being penalized millions of dollars by growing short staple cotton, when there was a demand for longer staple. The farmer who grows cotton under seven-eighths inch staple, is simply taking dollars out of his pocketbook.

British spinners were said to have bought about 300,000 bales of cotton from Africa last year, because they could not secure enough cotton of this length from Southern farmers. Southern farmers were said to have been growing cotton of the short lengths, while we were importing long fiber cotton to fill our needs.

Dr. G. S. Meloy, of Washington, delivered an address on "Standardization of Cotton Seed and its Products." In part he said:

"What is needed, most of all, is to set up a definite standard for grading or giving value to cotton seed. We have standards in Alabama as set up by your department of agriculture, for grading only class that is not organized. I think fruit, vegetables, hay and cotton, and the rules and regulations of the state standards are needed for cotton seed. board of agriculture are fair and

"Until proper standards for buying or equitable, but like all necessary rules, grading seed are set up, justice cannot be given to buyer, and seller or grower of cotton seed. For instance, we have

found that one ton of cotton seed may contain as low as 700 pounds of kernels today, after which the state warehouse while another may have 1,300 pounds of men's convention will gather at the auction of the Jefferson Davis. Obviously these two tons of ditorium of the seed cannot have the same value."

#### Samples May Vary

"With regard to oil one sample may vary from another as much as 25 per cent to 42 per cent. This means that in one ton of cotton seed which contains a half ton of kernels, one ton may contain only 250 pounds of oil while the other may show 420 pounds. These samples cannot have the same value.

"Oil cake is valued chiefly in accordance with its protein. This protein will be led by James M. Moore, chief of the content may vary from 25 per cent to 47 per cent. It is plain then that cotton seed should be given a value in proportion to its oil and protein content." and adjournment will follow at noon.

Mr. Meloy said that a plan would soon be put forth by which cotton seed could be tested and its value given definitely. He also emphasized that color of seed was no index as to its damage and that to judge it by its color and penalize it on account of color was to act with no scientific basis of fact, and it constituted a practice which was often damaging to the farmer.

The concluding speaker of the day was W. R. Lancaster, of the cotton association, in charge of selling of cotton. He advocated the raising of longer staple cotton, but that farmers should not try to raise extra long staple as this would put them in competition with foreign farmers who could live on a few cents per day.

#### Three Per Cent Gin Cut

Since three per cent of all cotton in

Alabama was gin cut and 30,000 bales were thus practically ruined in Alabama every year, he showed a terrible penalty exacted from farmers who brought wet cotton to the gin, which he said should never be ginned. Gin cut cotton was said to be penalized from \$5 to \$25 per bale, and the loss runs into millions annually in Alabama.

This loss from gin cut cotton falls on the farmer alone and there are about one per cent of the spinning mills which can handle gin cut cotton and then only at a heavy penalty. Gin cutting was said to be caused by running the gin too fast, by wet cotton or by the saws rubbing the ribs, or by dull saws.

The raising of cotton from 15-16 inch to 1 inch long was advocated by Alabama farmers. The uniform tare as enforced by the department of agriculture was discussed as well as a great many variations in the condition of cotton as it went to the market. It was emphasized that whatever the unfavorable condition, the loss always fell on the farmer and that he had to pay the penalty.

Former President E. C. Basset, and others joined in a general discussion and President Joseph N. Poole, of Butler

Springs said in his address: "This association has been organized five years and I feel that we have made a great deal of progress. Our numbers have increased. We need of all classes to organize and cooperate, for we are the department of agriculture, for grading only class that is not organized. I think fruit, vegetables, hay and cotton, and the rules and regulations of the state

board of agriculture are fair and

grading seed are set up, justice cannot be given to buyer, and seller or grower of cotton seed. For instance, we have

found that one ton of cotton seed may contain as low as 700 pounds of kernels today, after which the state warehouse while another may have 1,300 pounds of men's convention will gather at the auction of the Jefferson Davis. Obviously these two tons of ditorium of the seed cannot have the same value."

President Poole announced that to-

morrow forenoon J. D. Pope, farm economist of Auburn, would speak, and F. W. Gist, state and federal statistician, would be heard. These authorities have been making extended research into the cotton situation and it is known that their messages will be given to the public for the first time.

Considerable interest attaches to the closing discussion which will be regard- ing gin regulations. This discussion will be led by James M. Moore, chief of the Farmers' Association, Farm Bureau, Home Demonstration Club and boys' and girls' clubs.

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ing gin regulations. This discussion will

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Demonstration



Agriculture - Iowa

Improvement  
Country Life Association Meets

Organization is frequently said to be the great need of agriculture and rural life, and it was chosen by the American Country Life Association as the topic for its 1929 conference. The meeting was held at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, October 17-20, and proved to be the best attended that the Association has held. Two thousand persons attended the opening session when former Governor Frank O. Lowden, president of the Association, delivered the presidential address.

Governor Lowden reported that in his travels through Africa, Asia and Europe statesmen had frequently stated that agrarian problems were of chief concern. He made a plea to farmers to realize the values of organization. If farmers have been remiss in their duty to their own industry, so has the federal government. "It has not felt the same concern for agriculture that it has for commerce and industry." 11-9-29

Among "reorganizations" needed, Governor Lowden stressed particularly tax reform and federal subsidies for rural schools. His plea for equality of opportunity in education, and national responsibility for it, was perhaps the most vigorous statement which has yet been made upon the subject, and the publicity that it received was a source of encouragement to rural educators. Governor Lowden stressed the unfavorable economic situation in agriculture and stated that "the world will have to give a better way of life" to those who supply it with food.

Dean A. R. Mann, of Cornell University, in presenting the summary of the conference discussions, said: "To a greater extent than ever before, this conference has enabled the homemaker and the farmer to join with the professional servants of country people in talking things over." Dean Mann's summary of the main conclusions of the ten sections of the conference is being published in *Rural America*, New York, for November. New York, N.Y.

A committee of the Association, under the chairmanship of Dr. Henry C. Taylor, presented to the Iowa State College a rustic monument as a memorial to Henry C. Wallace, Secretary of Agriculture, 1921-24. A service of recognition for five "master farm homemakers," held in cooperation with the *Farmer's Wife*, was one of the features of the conference. The master homemakers are selected by the journal through boards of judges in various parts of the country.

Dr. Kenyon L. Butterfield, founder of the Country Life Association, and honorary president, spoke on progress in rural organization since the report of the Roosevelt Country Life Commission in 1908 and upon international aspects of rural organization. Shortly after the conference he sailed for India on a special assignment for the International Missionary Council.

During the year 1929 the American Country Life Association has had as its executive secretary, Benson Y. Landis, who is associate secretary of the Department of Research and Education.

Country Life Association.

Agriculture-1929  
Improvement  
**FARMERS IN  
FLORIDA TO  
GET U. S. AID**

**Organizations Qualify  
Them for Relief**

Jacksonville, Fla.—The farm relief bill recently passed by congress and signed by President Hoover may bar our farmers in the South from participating because of lack of farmers' co-operative associations in existence among these farmers. Farmers in Florida have realized more than ever before since the passage of the federal farm relief act the importance of their co-operative marketing system, originated by Gadsden county Farmers in 1911 under supervision and management of A. A. Turner, state supervisor of extension work in Florida, with headquarters at the Florida A. and M. college.

It was Mr. Turner's idea of helping the farmers to solve their economic problems which started other counties to action along the same lines and resulted in a chain of ten chartered farmers' co-operative associations in this state, some with and some without capital stock. They buy farm supplies and sell farm products in car lots; operate packing houses and supervise and manage every phase of their work and business from start to finish, thus permitting the growers to control their business under their own leadership.

**STATE COVERED BY  
CO-OPERATIVE BODIES**

The Florida state legislature of 1923 passed laws for the benefit of co-operative organizations among farmers. Our farmers availed themselves in line for such benefits that might come through state and federal legislation. The service of the Florida state marketing bureau has been made use of and this office is largely responsible for the steady progress made and that which has been accomplished has been kept within legal bounds through the guidance of the state or parent body, known as the Florida Farmers' Co-operative association, headed by H. H. Williams, potato grower of Hastings, president; A. A. Turner, Florida A. and M. college, Tallahassee, secretary; S. H. Hendley, retired farmer of Gainesville, treasurer, and Attorney I. L. Purcell, prominent lawyer of Jacksonville, legal adviser. The presidents of the local associations make up the board

of directors of the state body.

The local farmers' co-operative associations that have been organized around shipping points to date are Gainesville Farmers' Co-operative association, S. L. Long, president; Hainesworth Farmers' Co-operative association, William Anderson, president; South Side Farmers' Co-operative association, G. W. Washington, president; Reddick Farmers' Co-operative association, C. P. Brown, president; Marion Farmers' Co-operative association, W. P. Gary, president; Sumter Farmers' Co-operative association, E. J. Williams, president; Columbia Farmers' association, W. E. Bowles, president; Suwannee Farmers' association, A. L. Ivey, president, and Grove Park Farmers' association, J. T. Gaddy, president.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the state organization at Ocala June 25 resolutions were passed and adopted to have the agricultural co-operation work being done among our farmers in Florida put on record in order that the bureau of markets in Washington may know that bona fide farmers' co-operative associations exist in Florida. The resolutions further provide for a study of the co-operative marketing system as required by the federal government to be made at the national capital just as soon as the information becomes available. The roll call showed all directors present at the above meeting in person or by proxy representing ten local farmers' associations from eight counties.

## **FLORIDA FARMERS ORGANIZE CREDIT CORPORATION**

Ocala, Fla.—(By the Associated Negro Press)—What might be regarded as the most forward move toward farm relief for our farmers was made here when near 100 delegates, representing 20 farmers' co-operative associations from fifteen counties, brought the first annual meeting of the Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association held at the A. M. E. Church to a successful close Thursday.

Unlike the customary gatherings of farmers when they usually report on how much had been produced during the year and "whose farming record stood above the other." The program carried out

### **Florida.**

provided only for such discussions and business transactions as would characterize the "new day" farmers meeting such as organizing rural credits, co-operative marketing and education in co-operative organization of farmers."

Representatives of local associations had direct contact with officials from the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank and State Marketing Bureau, which authorities gave first hand information along their respective lines. As the result, delegates were schooled on the essential points which the Federal Farm Board is endeavoring to get over to the American farmer as their best hope for relief.

**Credit Corporation Organized**  
The question of borrowing money from the government through the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of this district was explained in detail by Mr. H. L. Gardner, representing the Federal Intermediate Credit Bank of Columbia, S. C. His two hours' address (including questioning) led to the organization of an agricultural credit corporation which he said, "was necessary to qualify with his institution with a minimum capital stock of \$10,000, all of which must be paid in."

Immediately following his address the "Florida Farmers Credit Corporation" was organized, authorizing a capital stock of \$25,000 and a board of directors and officers for the ensuing year were appointed. The board of directors and officers for the "Florida Farmers' Co-operative Association" for the ensuing year were also appointed.

Headquarters for both institutions will be at Ocala, Fla.

### **State Marketing Bureau Represented**

Marketing experts from the Florida State Marketing Bureau included Mr. W. S. Hiatt on fruit and vegetable and Mr. Lewis on live stock and poultry, who spoke at length. They gave valuable information along their lines and the problem of marketing in the counties represented will be solved in many ways through the local marketing associations.

### **Central Association Formed**

Centralization of the local associations under one super-organiza-

tion in keeping with the request of the Federal Farm Board is regarded the most outstanding accomplishment during the meeting. Steps were taken through the executive committee to work out plans for systematic training officials of local associations in their various duties as provided for in the charter and by-laws of the marketing association.

## **NEGRO FARMERS IN FLA. ORGANIZE**

TAMPA, Fla.—The Negro farmers of Florida, under the leadership of A. A. Turner, director of Negro Extension Work, have organized a co-operative association through which supplies are purchased and crops marketed. Associated Negro Press dispatch says that the association operates assembly and packing houses and sells in carload lots. Commenting upon the association, the Tampa (Fla.) Bulletin says: "So far as is known, Florida is the first state where Negro farmers have mingled their truck crops in carlots and shipped to northern and eastern markets under state laws regulating co-operative organizations."

## **FLA. BOYS AND GIRLS STUDY FARMING AND HOMEMAKING**

the State College, welcomed the visitors to the facilities of the college, urging them to get the most out of the opportunities offered. Others who spoke at the daily sessions included T. M. Campbell, associate agriculturist in charge of Agricultural and Mechanical College Extension Service in seven southern states, who explained the efforts of the government in behalf of the farm youth; A. P. Spencer, vice director of extension work in Florida; Miss Jennie P. Moore, of the state home demonstration the State College.

Boys received instruction in the care of livestock, home gardening, horticulture, dairying, control of insects. For girls instruction was offered in bread-making, home decorations, home garden-ing, food preservation, sewing and home crafts. An hour each day was devoted to recreation.

The short course was held preliminary to the annual 4-H Club camp which will meet at Tuskegee Institute early in December and which delegations of rural boys and girls from seven southern states will attend. Boys and girls who win the highest ratings in their respective states are selected to attend the Tuskegee camp.

At the opening meeting of the course, J. R. E. Lee, president of

## Agriculture-1920

## Improvement of CONDITIONS IN THE PIEDMONT

Recently the United States Department of Agriculture published a report of a survey in the Piedmont section of Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina and South Carolina, to determine the status of cotton farmers. It concluded that "100,000 white farmers in this area are living under very adverse conditions."

Low income was the reason.

Low income was the reason assigned of rural dwellers in the South are living farm, and the rest use only two. They live in sales by combined efforts and re-  
and low income was due to small produc The other deals with the vast rural possi within an average cash income of \$310 a sources. There are many sections, he says,  
tion per man plus high cost of production bilities of the South. One gives a picture year for the average family of five per which should be hopeful and prosperous,  
The survey revealed, for example, that of a pathetic condition, and the other sug sons. but which have a declining and decadent  
only one-third of these farmers were culti-gests a remedy for it. *Advertiser* Two-fifths of the farmers have their rural life, "wholly due to economic and  
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got an average yield of half a bale to the hundred thousand white families on cot the use of the land and the houses in Dr. Mead says that the lessons of the  
acre. *12-20-24* ten farms in Alabama, Georgia, North Car which they live. In this group the aver-demonstration farm and extension service,

Several factors causing low production in the South Carolina and South Carolina are living under ~~ag~~ cash income available for family living now supplied by agricultural agencies operating in the South, go unheeded by the this land is not adapted to extensive acreage. The survey estimate is \$336 a year. "Most of these farmers living in the South, go unheeded by the age per man because it is rolling, roughing through the four States. ~~and in small fields~~ Still another important factor is lack of adequate power and equipment. Two thirds of the farmers in production on small farms in sections over 100,000 families, according to the cause they were too poor to own a mule the same practices as those around them. The problem presented by these poor interviewed in the survey had only one mule, run by the boll weevil, on irregular shaped in two or three rooms. "Only a few houses have not been unaware, but about which per man. Most others used two mules per and sloping fields and on soils that require had cellars, and in many cases only one little has been done. At any rate, not man, a few having three or four. fertilizers and constant efforts to control thickness of board protected the occupants enough has been done. These conditions

With all these factors combined against them there is no wonder that their incomes are miserably low—the average being \$334 per family in 1924 when the survey was made. A study of a group of these farm families in Gwinnett County, Georgia, made by the department's investigators showed that most of the men in approximately 300 families have always lived near the farms on which "some of the farmers had automobiles but little money for running them."

No doubt improvement has been made, but conditions now are very similar to what they were then. They were born and raised, and that they and their families exist on miserably low incomes which necessitate the poorest sort of

It is not probable that farming in the Piedmont section will ever be as remunerative as it is in sections where big fields of level lands permit large-scale farming. Yet vast improvements can be made in the famous old Piedmont. Livestock to keep labor busy 365 days in the year and more efficient use of the land will help. With it should be combined enough power (mules, horses, tractors) and suitable machinery for efficient use of labor. The same is true of a good many other sections of living standards. *ala.*

"Not knowing whether they might improve their condition by farming elsewhere or by going into occupations other than farming," says the department's report, "they have continued to farm in the neighborhood where they are acquainted and in the way their parents farmed, and they have adjusted their standards of living to fall flat or gently rolling where injury from erosion can be easily controlled, and an income, in many cases, less than that of in addition fine transportation facilities and nearness to the largest cities of the country.

Only a third of these farmers grow as much as ten acres of cotton, and only a

Why, in a region offering such wonder-  
ful opportunities, should the people not be well off? Inquiries show that this section of the country has "all the conditions for an attractive and prosperous rural life."

Commissioner Mead, of the Reclamation Service, in his annual report lists the favorable material conditions in the South as long growing seasons, adequate rainfall, ~~flat or gently rolling~~ adequately fertilized, where injury from erosion can be easily controlled, and an income, in many cases, less than that of in addition fine transportation facilities and nearness to the largest cities of the country.

Only a third of these farmers grow as much as ten acres of cotton, and only a third of those who grow cotton produce

## General

**A CONDITION AND A REMEDY** as much as half a bale to the acre. Many hundreds of families living in the direst poverty have before us two Associated Press dispatches originating from departments of the Federal Government, each of which is interesting itself, and which are still more interesting when taken together. Of them are tenants on farms valued at less than \$2,000, and a fourth of the farms answer to the question. But Commissioners have so little capital that they must Mead is of the opinion that what the South contract to pay half of what they produce needs is planned and organized rural communities to landlords who furnish the mules and nunnities which will be little worlds to tools to work with, the land to farm and themselves, cooperating not only to make

One is concerned with the adverse conditions under which hundreds of thousands of these farmers use only one mule to broaden their markets and effect economies under which rural dwellers in the South are living farm, and the rest use only two. They live mainly in sales by combined efforts and resources. The other deals with the vast rural possibilities of the South. One gives a picture year for the average family of five persons which should be hopeful and prosperous,

but which have a declining and decadent rural life, "wholly due to economic and human conditions which can and should be improved." A survey of conditions made by the Department of Agriculture reveals that one about a fourth of what they produce for improved.

hundred thousand white families on the use of the land and the houses in Dr. Mead says that the lessons of the ton farms in Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, which they live. In this group the average demonstration farm and extension service, which is available for family life now supplied by agricultural agencies, an

orolina and South Carolina are living under a cash income available for family living now supplied by agricultural agencies operating under very adverse conditions. The survey amounting is \$336 a year. "Most of these farmers in the South, go unheeded by the people who have braced the upper Piedmont region extending through the four States. 11/29/29 periods when they farmed on halves being a drab social existence and following much the same practices as those around them. These 100,000 families, according to the cause they were too poor to own a mule.

The problem presented by these poor livefarm families is one of which the South is production on small farms in sections over run by the boll weevil, on irregular shaped and sloping fields and on soils that require fertilizers and constant efforts to control weeds and erosion. Many of them, the investigators say, know of ways and have the means of adding to the food on their tables and to the money in their pockets, "but ignore opportunities to do so and get organs, phonographs, pianos, banjos, violins, and other articles of the houses," the report continues. "Most can be improved. It will take time, but it can be done. It will have to be done by the means of adding to the food on their tables and to the money in their pockets, for they must make their own clothes, and promotion of cooperative agricultural enterprises.

How little they manage to get along is almost incredible. A study of a typical group of these farm families in Gwinnett County, Georgia, made by the department's investigators showed that most of the men in approximately 300 families have always lived near the farms on which

lins and guitars were fairly plentiful." To The South can never attain a full degree complete the picture of the living conditions of prosperity until these conditions among tions under which these families exist, these large a portion of its rural dwellers are report sets forth that their reading is con-remedied. Every Southern State should fined largely to county papers or lowdevote itself to studying this problem and priced home or farm papers, and that take every remedial measure possible. "some of the farmers had automobiles but little money for running them."

they were born and raised, and that they and their families exist on miserably low incomes which necessitate the poorest sort of living standards. *W.L.*

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The other dispatch gives an account of investigations made by the Federal Bureau of Reclamation in the South. These investigations show that this section of the country has "all the conditions for an attractive and prosperous rural life."

prove their condition by farming elsewhere, or by going into occupations other than farming," says the department's report. "They have continued to farm in the neighborhood where they are acquainted and in the way their parents farmed, and they have adjusted their standards of living to an income, in many cases, less than that of the cheapest industrial labor."

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Agriculture-1929

## Improvement Leaving the Farm

**I**N THESE years of the McNary-Haugen Bill we hear much of the sad condition of the farmer is slight. According to them the 1913 dollar was caught between the high domestic market where worth fifty-one cents to him in 1920 and sixty-four cents in 1921. So in terms of 1913 when he must buy and the low world market where he must sell. There also suffers along with him the average weekly wage was \$8.88, his real wage rose to \$10.29 in 1920 and dropped to \$8.33 in 1921.

Agriculture, which in America had always before occupied more persons than any other occupation, dropped to second place in the 1920 census, giving way to manufacturing and mechanical industries. In the last hundred years the percentage of the population over ten years of age engaged in agriculture has steadily declined, though the absolute number has increased. But from 1910 to 1920 even than this, and many a great deal more, even the absolute number decreased. Exactly what this percent. That is, manufacturing has been becoming decrease was it is difficult to tell. The census figures make it about 1,700,000 persons, but the census itself says that part of this was due to over enumeration in 1910 and underenumeration in 1920. Let us compare the farm worker's absolute wage with that of the unskilled laborer in manufacturing.

P. K. Whelpton of the Scripps Foundation has estimated the correct figure as around 800,000. Government figures on the latter are available for 1924, 1925, or 1926. The figures for these years great a decrease from 1920 to 1925 as during the ten years preceding.

Who are these people—at least a million and a half of them—who have left the farms during the last fifteen years or so? The number of farmers, that is, those who manage their own land or rented property, has increased a couple of hundred thousand in the last census decade. The decrease in the total is among those who work on the farms without having a proprietary interest in them: the hired men and the children of the farmers, between whom the group of farm laborers is so divided about equally. It is impossible to tell how many of those who have left the farm were hired men he used to. Only those too old, or men and how many farmers' sons who went to seek their fortunes in the big cities. Probably they have gone from both groups. The interesting thing is to find out why.

The answer is the status of the two million "hired men" whom the 1920 census found still on the farms. In ability and training they are comparable with unskilled or semi-skilled industrial workers. What is their economic status in comparison? The Department of Agriculture has compiled wage figures for farm workers from 1910 to 1927. Their wages have, of course, increased in this period, but how much has been clear gain? The

General

National Bureau of Economic Research estimates the value of the dollar to the farm laborer as dis-

# FARM BOARD TO WORK COTTON GROWERS ASK ON OPERATING PLAN FIVE MILLION LOAN

Experts To Spend Indefinite Period Perfecting Own Machinery.

Washington, August 13.—(P)—The need for a loan of \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000 to aid in the orderly disposition of this year's cotton crop was presented to the federal farm board today by a group of trustees of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange.

The money was necessary the board was informed, to supplement loans obtainable through the intermediate credit system and local banks to pay off cotton growers who desired to exercise their option of collecting from the co-operatives with which they had deposited their crop.

Information available at the board's offices indicated that the cotton men's representatives had been received favorably, but that the board stipulated a number of conditions which would first have to be fulfilled. The exact nature of these conditions was not disclosed.

The group which conferred with the board included C. O. Moser, of Dallas, president of the American Cotton Growers' Exchange; A. D. Waldauer, of Memphis; Sam Morley, of Oklahoma; Charles G. Henry, of Arkansas, and U. B. Blalock, all identified with the co-operative cotton marketing movement.

This group also came to Washington with plans for the formation of a commodity advisory council for cotton, but these plans have not taken sufficient shape to warrant the board acting upon them at this time. It was regarded as likely, however, that, if any extensive loan is extended, the board would consider the appointment of an advisory council desirable.

Board officials previously had secured information which they said showed the co-operative marketing movement had progressed exceptionally well among the cotton growers. The American Cotton Growers' Exchange is a national federation of thirteen co-operatives.

Three important co-operatives do not belong to the exchange. They are the Staple Cotton Co-operative Association of Greenwood, Miss.; the Arkansas Farmers' Union Cotton Growers' Association of Little Rock, Ark., and the Pecos Valley Cotton Growers' Association of Roswell, N. M. If a commodity council were appointed it was considered certain that all these groups would be accorded a representative.

President Moser said that the cotton co-operatives desired to use local banking facilities wherever possible to finance the growers' optional demands, but that in some cases interest rates were becoming prohibitive. For this reason, he said, a sizeable loan from the farm board would be of great aid at this time.

MARJORIE MCFARLAND.

## NOTHING FOR INDIVIDUALS

AT ITS fourth session the newly-created Federal Farm Board decided that loans under the act were authorized only to regularly organized cooperative associations and not to individuals. Mr. Alexander Legge, president of the board, stated that thousands of applications for loans had been received from individual farmers whom he wished informed that they could as individuals expect nothing.

As The Pittsburgh Courier has said time after time, we are living in an organized world in which the individual counts for little. In order to get anything nowadays it is absolutely necessary to be organized, and militantly organized at that. The Negro farmers like Negro laborers have been content to remain individuals on the economic field and they will, of course, have to suffer the consequences. Because he has remained ignorant and indifferent to the necessity for joining farm cooperatives, the Negro farmer, who needs far more relief than the white farmer, will get nothing.

Of course, the Negro is organized but the sort of organization in which he is largely engaged has little or no economic value. He has church and fraternal organizations in great numbers, greater, perhaps, than is necessary, but he has no economic organizations created for the purpose of protecting the monopoly of white labor.

We would like to see Negro farmers get some of the money which is going to be dispensed for the relief of those engaged in agriculture. We can, however, see no way for the Negro to develop

farmer to get any of it so long as he persists in functioning as an individual. Nor do we believe the Negro farmers entirely to blame. They have received little or no instruction and advice from the numerous Negro farm agents and officials of Negro agricultural institutes that dot the South.

There is still time, however, for something to be done. The Negro farmers if they are shown the way, will take as willingly to economic cooperation as the white farmers. They only need to be shown. We hope those Negroes who are supposed to be familiar with such matters will jump in and do a little agitating and organizational work before all of the farm relief money is appropriated.

**An Open Letter to the President on the Appointment of a Colored Man on the Farm Board.**

Honorable Herbert Hoover, President of the United States, Mr. President, *for a colored man*

I am taking the liberty of addressing you with reference to the appointment of a colored representative on the Farm Board recently authorized by an act of Congress. It is generally believed that the proper functioning of the board will have far-reaching influence upon the agricultural and economic destiny of America. The issue between the agricultural and industrial elements has reached the state of acute irritation. The Negro should, therefore, be encouraged to seek for his salvation as a mass, in the unopposed sphere of producing food and fiber to nourish and clothe the nation. He is encouraged to work at a disadvantage in all spheres of activity in which he may be engaged, but on the farm opportunity.

The Negro should, therefore, be encouraged to seek for his salvation as a mass, in the unopposed sphere of producing food and fiber to nourish and clothe the nation. He is encouraged to work at a disadvantage in all spheres of activity in which he may be engaged, but on the farm opportunity. The selection of a competent colonel and executive. The country congratulates you upon your courage and firmness in handling this issue which confirms our belief in you as master administrator and executive.

The Negro should take over the farm as often as the white man abandons it. Very unfortunately, the Negro is blindly imitating the white man in this mad cityward rush. They are alike attracted by the glare of city allurements; but the black ar-river finds himself the more hopelessly delusioned by the enchantment.

### Mechanical Industries.

The World War prolonged, for a while, the deluded hope of the Negro in competitive mechanical industries. A vacuum was created in the labor market and the Negro rushed in to fill the temporary demand.

The increasing restrictions of immigration will serve to suspend his docn-

desirable and remunerative employ-

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The same principle applies to agri-

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In this connection I beg to suggest

for consideration, Dr. R. R. Moten,

principal of Tuskegee Institute, whose

race philosophy is based upon the

agriculture motive, and Mr. E. P.

Booze, of Mound Bayou, Mississippi,

who is conducting an agricultural and

business experiment, whose outcome

is fraught with vital significance to

the Negro and to the nation.

### Crime Commission.

I greatly hoped that you might have seen your way clear to select a colored man for a place on your Crime Commission, mainly for the beneficial reaction of such a choice upon the group which is at once the greatest victim of lawlessness and the chief beneficiary of law enforcement.

The Negro should be led to appreciate the beneficent purpose and intent of good government by entrusting him with some responsible relation to the machinery of government. The white race will prove to be a very poor schoolmaster to the Negro if it insists on laying down rigid regulations and beating the black man into obedience, without appealing to his conscience and intelligence.

The same principle applies to agricultural industry. Hampton and Tuskegee have been trying for a generation to inculcate upon the understanding of the Negro that his best chance and only salvation lay in the farm. The powerful pull of city allurements, has for the past two decades, greatly weakened the strength of their appeal. The government can do much to direct the race in the wise way in which it should go.

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Yours truly,

KELLY MILLER.

### SOUTHERN MEN INDORSE SIMMONS' COMMUNITY BILL

Washington, May 15.—(P)—Two witnesses today indorsed the Simmons' bill to authorize an appropriation of \$12,000,000 to be used for the creation of planned rural communities in the south.

Appearing before the senate irrigation and reclamation committee, which has the bill introduced by Senator Simmons, of North Carolina, under consideration, Hugh MacRae, developer of the Castle Haynes Agricultural Colony near Wilmington, N. C., declared that a plan he put into effect at the colony was working successfully.

J. N. Mather, of the Ocean grower, told of conditions in the industry and asserted that action was necessary in order to restore rich, alluvial lands along the coast which have been turned over to tenants who have produced only cotton and tobacco for years.

"Otherwise," he said, "the land will drift into decay."

Tomorrow the committee will take final action on the bill, today's witnesses having concluded the hearings. Simmons said he expected no serious opposition to a favorable report to the senate.

Neither the opinion of the Farm Board nor its endorsement was we have a huge surplus." Continues Mr. Jardine:

ent, to its preferred stockholders, and to distribute surplus among its co-operative units.

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Yours truly,

KELLY MILLER.

**SOUTHERN MEN INDORSE SIMMONS' COMMUNITY BILL**

lowered within a week by private interests to direct a national and international sales ser-

the organization of agriculture for its members. Mention might also be made of the

\$9,000,000 credit extended by the Farm Board to California

to a membership of more grape producers and the \$5,000,000 made available to Southern

fruit and vegetable cooperatives for handling this year's crop.

Fruit and vegetables, says the Washington Star, are second

in value only to the corn crop. According to William M.

Boone, Secretary of Agriculture under President Coolidge,

two million farmers cotton cooperatives

in the United States and stock-raisers. The

farmers will retain possession of their produce from

point of production to retailer. Handling a large volume, it will give them increased bargaining power, facilitate orderly market-

ing, reduce wasteful duplication, and insure a reliable supply of ripe fruits and vegetables, returning to the farmer a larger percentage of the price paid by the consumer without increasing

the price to the consumer."

The new organization proposes to pay not more than 8 per

## NOTHING FOR INDIVIDUALS

AT ITS fourth session the newly-created Federal Farm Board decided that loans under the act were authorized only to regularly organized cooperative associations and not to individuals. Mr. Alexander Legge, president of the board, stated that thousands of applications for loans had been received from individual farmers whom he wished informed that they could as individuals expect nothing.

As The Pittsburgh Courier has said time after time, we white, the deluded hope of the Negro is blindly imitating the white man in this mad cityward rush. They are alike attracted by the glare of city allurements; but the black ar- river finds himself the more hope- lessly delusioned by the enchant- ing individuals on the economic field and they will, of course, have a little longer. But as conditions to be a very poor schoolmaster to the Negro if it insists in laying down ri- gulations and beating the black competitor will be pushed further in- to suffer the consequences. Because he has remained ignorant and the white labor fund becomes grid-locked, the black man into obedience, without appeal- ing to his conscience and intelligence.

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The gov- ernment, he has hesitated to join them.

We would like to see Negro farmers get some of the money which frustrates the success-

of the Negro's hope to develop his commerce.

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Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

## Economic And Social Conditions Of Farm Life In Southern States

As Outlined by Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan Professor of Social Science At The University of North Carolina

Economic Problems of Reclamation to the palms that sweat it out. The title is the title of a recent bulletin same thing is true where the money issued by the U. S. Department of Income is derived mainly from the interior. The authors of the single crop. It was true of Wisconsin two articles contained in the bulletin in the eighties of the last century are Dr. Alvin Johnson of Columbia when the money income of the farm University who discusses the Economic Aspects of Certain Reclamation-wheat. It is true to-day of the sisal Projects, and Dr. E. C. Branson growers of Yucatan and the coffee who discusses Planned Colonies of farmers of Brazil.

Farm Owners. Before discussing Mainly there are three reasons for the proposed plan (The Crisp-McKellar bill) of aided colonies of 1. One-crop farmers are producing farm owners in Southern states, Dr. Branson outlines some economic and social conditions, tendencies, and most inevitably at the bottom of drifts of farming in the South, as the economic scale. The wealth follows.

**Economic Conditions** Southern farmers are crop farmers, jobbers, retailers, and crediters mainly. Generally they are one-agencies. For many years the cotton farmers, producing either cotton-tobacco money current in the South has barely settled our bills for food and feed farmers incidentally or accidentally. The necessity speak of standard, staple food and for work-stock feed explains our feed stuffs, not of extras, dainties. large acreage in corn. For more and luxuries of diet. In 1920 the than a half-century there has been amount of hard-earned cash sent out steady increase of work stock and of the seven Southern states in steady decrease of milk and meat which investigations have been made animals in the South. Cotton and tobacco by the Bureau of Reclamation, for tobacco farmers prevailingly consider bread, meat, grain, hay, forage, and it to be good sense and good business to produce cotton and tobacco. The total ness to produce cotton and tobacco was \$1,408,000. The total and to buy farm supplies with cotton and tobacco dollars. As a result we produce vast volumes of cotton-staggering total of \$2,333,748,000 on and tobacco wealth year by year, 2. The single money-crop system but the farm wealth retained is almost negligible; that is to say, wealthcation of the doctrine of diminishing remaining in the hands of the farm-returns. The farmer is a consumers themselves. Neither the cotton-er as well as a producer of values. tobacco farmer nor the community When the doctrine of comparative nor the state seems to be able to advantage is applied to the farmer hold down at home the large per-acre values of cotton and tobacco is manifestly wise for him to produce wealth produced. When compared with the food and feed farmers of the Middle West, our per acre production down South. It is a spare-time, by-duction of crop values is high, but our per worker production is low—or tobacco farmer. He can hope to be a self-sufficing farmer, so low as to be startling. Cotton

but it is an economic necessity for him to be a self-feeding farmer. "The first business of the farm," River can not produce cotton at says Thomas Nixon Carver, "is to something like these figures, then the feed the farmer, the farm family, cotton growers of the Gulf and and the farm animals."

The farmer must, of course, consider comparative advantage in the production of everything he has to sooner the better, safety considered. sell, which is something the cotton. The problem is that of a readjusted tobacco farmer has not yet done; agriculture in all the Southern but also he must apply this economic doctrine to the food and feed con-

that contest produced cotton at America, based on country telephone systems, the rural free delivery, the rural parcels post, improved highways, motor cars, auto-trucks, and radios, can not be just as effective as the compact farm village life of Europe. But overcoming the ills of sparse farm populations with modern inventions and devices of this sort will be the slow development of generations in the Western Hemisphere.

2. There is an appalling amount of sheer-illiteracy and near-illiteracy in the farm regions of the South. The price of survival in the agricultural time proposition, he can produce itgent adjustment to new conditions for less than he pays for it delivered. The changing of farm systems is al- on his farm, then it is manifestly most difficult of all eco-advantageous to do so. The com-mercial economist applies the doc- leadership and alert discipline dur-trine at the point of production. He is interested in the volumes of wealth produced. The cotton-to-bacco farmer must also apply it at the point of consumption, if he is ever to retain any considerable portion of the wealth he produces.

Almost without exception the "master" farmers of the South have been live-at-home farmers. There are a few such farmers in every southern county. Invariably they are prosperous. Always they are good credit risks. Any banker anywhere in the South can quickly call over the farmers in his territory who produce cotton and tobacco on a home-raised bread-and-meat basis.

3. A further reason for the economic status of the crop farmers of the South lies in the fact that the per unit cost of production is excessive. It is so because cotton and tobacco involve a maximum of human labor and a minimum of horse and machine power. The average cotton and tobacco farmer of the South consumes his profits in the very act of production, and the pathos of it is that little or nothing is left of his year's income when his bills are settled and the balance sheet is struck. Of course, there is no way out except the usual way out, namely, by increasing the use of farm machinery and decreasing excessive, expensive human labor in the production of farm values. To be sure, cotton and tobacco do not end themselves to machine production as easily as the grain crops do; nevertheless the low cost of cotton production by the prize winners in the Dallas News contest last year is clear proof that cotton costs can be immensely decreased by labor-saving machinery. The prize winners in

the South steadily improve, but they will always lag behind the school advantages of the towns and the cities. Here is a fundamental condition as rapidly as possible into processing agricultural values. livestock products as rapidly as or 3. An even greater obstacle lies in the organization will develop near-by and in the types of southern farm tenancy. Farm tenancy in the Middle and Far West is a phase of capitalism. The movement needs to be marked by the caution of wisdom. Not even cotton and tobacco farmers can afford to practice diversification any more rapidly than fair prices and profits will reward their efforts

### Social Conditions

But even more important is a consideration of the social conditions in the South. The middle and far western tenant produces in the South farm tenancy is an expression of poverty. More than four-fifths of all the southern farm

1. The farmers of the South are settled in solitary farmsteads, from 3 to 7 families per square mile, scattered throughout our vast open spaces—barely more than 1 family per square mile in 11 Texas counties. The negro farm tenants of the South are outnumbered by the white farm tenants by more than 150,000 souls. Southern tenancy per square mile in 11 Texas counties is twinborn social ills. Tenancy breeds illiteracy and lack adequate country community. Tenancy breeds tenancy. Neither life. To be sure, there are small can be cured without curing the settlements, school and church. Together they produce a neighborhood, numerous subcensus-size country towns, but no country and handicaps the development of southern communities comparable with the agriculture. Our farm tenants farm villages of Europe and the Far East. As a result, the concert of want to be bothered with meat and milk animals; they own few or no property. The farmers of farm tools, implements, and machinery are not; they are not intelligent enough likely to develop the compact farm to use labor-saving farm machinery. The village life of the Old World countries to care for such machinery when tries, but not impossibly they can be furnished by the landlords; they and must develop country communities to ack the capital, the intelligence, and ty life based on transportation and he enterprise to be effective in communication. There is no reason why country community life in the West are estimated to produce more

General

han half of our cotton and nearly two-thirds of our tobacco, and the cotton and tobacco cooperatives have been unable to devise practical ways and means of controlling tenant crops with any advantage to the cooperating farmers.

4. Living from hand-to-mouth as most of our farmers live—both tenants and operating owners—the problems of farming as a business are well-nigh solvable. They can not or will not act together in group production, group buying, group processing, group credit, and self-defensive group action in farm policies. Furthermore, in the lonely life of isolated farms, there is developed an economic and social inertia that is stubbornly resistant of change of any sort. The country-economic investigator of the South minded farmers of the South will probably always remain in the country populations in the South. South of the Federal Department of the Internal Revenue, His findings were recently to offer fair prices and profits for food and feed stuffs locally produced. Hence, our feed farming. At Dr. Branson finds farming in these present the South is too rural, just as the North and East are too urban. We need fewer farmers; we need fewer tenants; distinctly we need fewer absentee farm landlords; buttary homesteads, illiteracy, the poverty of the tenant farmer, just as certainly the South needs more farm owners who cultivate the acres they own.

## ARTIFICIAL COTTON

### TO BE GROWN IN U. S.

NEW YORK, June 1.—W.

C. J. Hedley-Thornton, British analytical and research chemist, who last December announced the discovery of an artificial cotton made from a newly-found fibre, today announced he has concluded negotiations for the growth and marketing of the fibre in the United States.

The announcement was made before he sailed for England tonight on the liner Majestic after a two weeks visit during which he conferred with financiers and leaders of the cotton industry and visited southern cotton centers.

He said that between 60,000 and 70,000 acres of land, chiefly in Florida, will be sown with the fibre plant—originally found in a bird's nest in British Guiana and developed by the crossing and re-crossing with chemical treatment of 85 different species.

## FARM COLONIES

### URGED FOR SOUTH

Dr. Branson Sees in Them Solution of Problem of Struggling Agriculture There.

## GIVES RESULTS OF SURVEY

### Cites Social as Well as Economic Benefits From System of Organized Settlements.

Application to the South of the principles of reclamation and development of coordinated farm communities offers a way out to Southern farmers who are suffering from the disadvantages of an unorganized rural life and whose positions seem otherwise quite hopeless, in the opinion of Dr. E. C. Branson, Kenan Professor of Rural Economics at the University of North Carolina, at the will of the Reclamation Conference, probably always remain in the country. His findings were recently to offer fair prices and profits for food and feed stuffs locally produced. Hence, our feed farming. At Dr. Branson finds farming in these present the South is too rural, just as the North and East are too urban. We need fewer farmers; we need fewer tenants; distinctly we need fewer absentee farm landlords; buttary homesteads, illiteracy, the poverty of the tenant farmer, just as certainly the South needs more farm owners who cultivate the acres they own.

"It is difficult," Dr. Branson says "to make farming a profitable business. It is even more difficult to make farming a satisfactory way of life. The experts of the land-grant colleges and State universities and other public institutions would be freely called upon for service in making these into communities of prosperous and contented farmers.

"Planned rural settlements," he continues, "are a distinct advance in the field of agriculture. The area of land on which a colony would be located bodies of prime farm land founded would be large enough to range from 8,000 to 15,000 acres, give it an agriculture independent of belonging to single owners. In that of the surrounding country. State like North Carolina, which contains 22,000,000 idle wilderness acres, least 200 farms. Only land having there are 15,000,000 acres which were good soil or soil capable of restoring once the best farm lands of the State. These conditions exist in every other Southern State, even more pronouncedly than in North Carolina. The land would be bought wholesale. These colonies ought not to be located in areas remote from local markets, improved highways and and farm labor tracts and sold at trunk-line railways directly connect cost, including development and advertising with the larger and more distant markets. A most important consideration is the location of farm colonies in alert social areas. They ought not to be located in regions where life has been in the doldrums for the last half century, no matter how fertile the land.

Advances From Credit Fund. "An agricultural credit fund would be provided from which advances could be made to supplement settlers' capital in improving farms and erecting community improvements. Advances would be repaid in long time amortized payments. This would leave most of the settler's capital in South of the directed efforts of home tact to be used for purchasing farm implements, tools and machinery,

work stock, meat and milk animals, seeds and fertilizer, and for defraying living expenses while farm income is being developed.

"A development and crop program would be thought out in advance of settlement. Every farm would be adjacent to a trunk or lateral drain where drainage is needed. Where tracts require clearing, a portion of each farm would be cleared and prepared for cultivation before being offered for settlement, thus relieving the farmers of the drudgeries and delay in farming while clearing wilderness acres. This would permit settlers to grow a crop the first year. Roads would be provided so that each farm would be given swift access to the colony centre on the one hand and on the other to buying and shipping centres near and remote.

"The costs of providing drainage and other improvements for the benefit of the community would be spread over the farms in the settlement and repaid as part of the cost of the land. The communities would be large enough so that they could organize in both social and business affairs. The advantages offered settlers in this plan would attract experienced farmers of thrift and integrity and create a permanent community of earnest, intelligent people who would be equipped to utilize the benefits of scientific knowledge modern farm machinery, and team work in the selection of crops to be grown and preparation and marketing of products. It would introduce into farming the benefits of mass production of standard quality farm products. Means would be provided for helping the farmers in solving problems of production, marketing, credit and other factors entering into their social and economic life.

The experts of the land-grant colleges and State universities and other public institutions would be freely called upon for service in making these into communities of prosperous and contented farmers.

## AIDING THE COTTON GROWERS.

A week or so ago the daily papers announced in glaring headlines that a hundred million dollars or so was to be allotted by a paternal Government to aid the cotton growers of the South to hold their crops until the price of that staple should go higher. This was apparently to be accomplished through ~~the medium~~ of cooperative organizations, which would store the crop and obtain advances on its value, until better prices might be offered when it could be sold to advantage.

It is well known that the Negro farmers of the South are the prime movers in the matter of growing cotton. Eliminate the Negro from that section, which happened in some places in the early days of the migration to the North, and the result was deserted cotton fields and unpicked crops withering on the stem. But it is not at all likely that those Negro farmers who remained in the South and helped to raise the great crops of cotton will participate at all in this aid granted by a generous government. The cooperative feature of the relief granted in that section only takes in the white farmers and plantation owners.

This was demonstrated in the case of the farmers loan banks, where no member of the darker race was included on any of the cooperative boards, and none of them could secure loans, no matter how good the security offered or how great their need for the money. No representation was granted the race on the Farm Loan Board at Washington, nor could any consideration be secured for the cases of those Negro farmers who were entitled to loan relief but could not get it through the local boards.

It is useless to discuss the matter of farm relief as offering any aid to the Negro farmer of the South, in the view of the fact that the racial prejudice cherished in that section, bars him from sharing with his white neighbor any measure of cooperative relief. It will need special measures and special machinery to carry any form of farm relief to the black farmers of the South, who have done and are

South Carolina: Paul Sanders, Ritter; C. E. Perry, Ridgeland; Neil Christensen, Beaufort.   
Membership Limited. Under the charter as read before the meeting today, membership will be limited to persons engaged in agricultural pursuits and each member shall have one vote. Private property of members shall not be subject to payment of debts of the corporation.

When the organization has been perfected and begins functioning speakers at the meeting today said it would be eligible to the benefits of the federal farm loan law and the association may establish warehouses for handling the products of its members. The charter also provides for the acquisition of trade marks, producing, canning, selling of agricultural products.

The organization under its charter will be authorized to buy and sell the products of its members, purchase machinery and farm supplies and loan money to members on warehouse re-

ceipts.

The co-operative elected nine directors from Georgia and three from South Carolina for terms arranged so that four expire each year, with new directors to be chosen for a period of three years. Directors chosen were: From Georgia, R. M. Milliken, Jesup; W. E. McDougall, Statesboro; J. F. Darby, Vidalia; C. B. Jones, Riceboro; J. A. Cromarty, Hazlehurst; Hubert Keller, Savannah; H. C. Beasley, Reidsville; E. L. Hattaway, Alma; J. B. Wright, Cairo.

Organization of the Southeastern Agricultural Products Co-Operatives Com-

solidated was perfected here today.

still doing so much to make that section the great cotton growing empire of the world. Without the Negro cotton grower, the reign of King Cotton will be in danger. The black farmer should be included in all measures to aid the cotton growing industry.

Georgia-Carolina Farmers Co-operative Association



*Agriculture-1929*

*Improvement of*

## PLANT PROTECTION BY AIRPLANE

*DUSTING* cotton-fields from the air with poisonous clouds, to kill the boll-weevil—a method described some time ago in these columns—is now definitely proved its worth, we are told by S. R. Winters, writing under the above title in *Popular Aviation and Aeronautics* (Chicago). The airplane is used also, he informs us, to collect airborne spores, in the investigation of plant diseases and to kill the larvae of mosquitoes in the swamps where they breed. Writes Mr. Winters:

Scattering clouds of poisonous dust, the airplane is being underwritten as a form of



Photograph by courtesy of *Popular Aviation* (Chicago)

### WHEN THE BUSY BOLL-WEEVIL GETS A JOLT THAT RUINS HIS APPETITE

The airplane flying over this Southern cotton-field is equipped with special apparatus for dusting the plants with insect-killing powder, as described in the article.

and, including the flying-field, covers about seven acres.

The flying personnel consists of two pilots, one mechanician, three machinists, and one general engineer. This field station, while primarily dedicated to studies in devising means for the effectual control of the cotton boll-weevil, is not restricted to the airplane as a combat method. The appropriation to be expended during the current year in making warfare on this pest amounts to \$169,920. Of this sum, one-fourth will be utilized in experiments with aircraft.

The government experiments have answered, in the affirmative, three questions. Can the planes be operated over a cotton-field in such a manner that the field will be throughout subjected to the cloud of dust? Can the dust be forced down from the plane into the cotton-plants and be made to adhere to them in a quantity sufficient

attack against a swarm of insects that was stripping a grove of catalpa trees of their foliage. The novel experiment was successful, and it at once suggested the possibility of employing the airplane for the control of insect pests. One year later the airplane was drafted against the encroachments of the boll-weevil. The insecticide, consisting of calcium arsenate, was dropped over the side of the airplane by hand or poured through an opening in the bottom. Later came the hand-crank hopper and, finally, the air-suction hopper, which distributes dust with an absence of human equation.

It is a far cry from the initial test flights in Louisiana in 1922 to the well-defined, officially approved cotton-dusting in 1928. The field laboratory at Tallulah, Louisiana, owned and operated by the Department of Agriculture, is composed of five buildings

## General

to control insects? Can dusting be done economically from the air?

The last question is answered with a proviso, namely, "The operation could be considered only as a community affair or for planters whose acreage would be large enough to justify purchasing more than one plane. Many districts in the South have now reached the point where the desirability of community weevil control can be seen."

The commercial cotton-duster may be hired by cotton-farmers whose crops are infested. The cotton-grower pays a stipulated figure for each acre dusted, and the cost to each farmer does not exceed that of ground methods of applying the poisonous dust.

The so-called air-suction hopper evolved from the crude method of dropping bags of insecticide over the side of an airplane. The poisonous dust is conveyed by a stream of air flowing down through the hopper, and collected by a funnel pointing forward over the plane wing. The amount of suction is proportional to the speed.

The records indicate that to treat cotton at the rate of six pounds per acre it is necessary for the plane to cover a swath 160 feet wide. Refinements and adjustments have been made in the hopper until it distributes insecticides in a fairly satisfactory manner—in fact, without this device, it is doubtful that cotton-dusting from airplane, in a uniform and sweeping way, would have been assured the success which has attended six years of effort.

J. L. Webb, associate entomologist of the Department of Agriculture, reports: "It is by far the most expeditious means of putting insecticide on cotton. An airplane can accomplish in one day what 100 of the best and most efficient ground machines could accomplish in the same time. Airplane dusting is a permanent agricultural project—it is here to stay!"

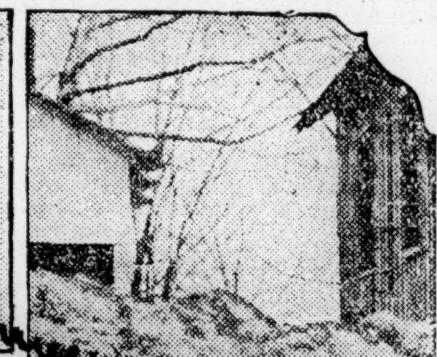
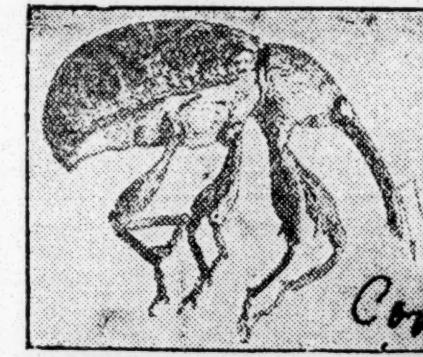
The Department, in its investigations to determine the distribution of spores which cause rust in wheat, sought the airplane, we are told, as the only suitable vehicle for exploring the upper air. A mechanical spore-trap with six compartments, each containing a slide, smeared with vaseline, was attached to the wing struts of an airplane and provided with a wire control, operated by the observer in the cockpit. We read:

On one of the slides, exposed five minutes at an altitude of about two miles, 244 spores were trapped. "The results," concludes the Department, "indicate that large numbers of spores and pollen grain are carried several thousand feet above the surface of the earth during the growing season. It is conceivable that a local epidemic might occur in one locality as a result of the blowing in of spores from an infection center

another distant locality."

Airplanes probably will be useful in studying the dissemination of many pathogenic fungi, and probably will aid in the solution of problems connected with the development of epidemics of plant diseases.

## Fewer Weevils Survive



Tediously counting the dead and live boll weevils (inset) in a ton of Spanish moss (above) indicates what percentage of insects survived the winter and are ready to attack the new cotton crop.

WASHINGTON, April 20.—(AP)◆

—By a simple although infinitely tedious process that has come to have an immediate effect on the cotton market, the United States bureau of entomology predicts each year the probable damage from boll weevils.

It consists of collecting Spanish moss from various sections of several cotton states and counting the dead and live weevils. The moss is gathered from February to March under conditions favorable to hibernation and the percentage of weevils that survived the winter is taken as an indication of the damage the new cotton crop may suffer from the insects if the weather and season are normal.

The survival report for 1929 shows a decrease in the percentage of live weevils for all sections studied, with the exception of South Carolina. If the weather during the growing season is no more favorable to the weevil than usual, the damage to cotton this year as compared to last year may decrease in fair proportion to the percentage of indicated weevil survival, entomologists say.

# NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLORED FARMERS

1. CO-OPERATION. This movement has for its main objective the bringing about of a more co-operative effort on the part of Negro Farmers.

2. SIGNS OF THE TIMES. The signs of the times point to co-operative effort in all directions, whether in production or distribution. The springing up of numerous chain stores is a splendid example of co-operative buying and selling exemplified in every community.

3. AMERICAN FARM FEDERATION. A splendid example of this is the magnificent piece of co-operative work being demonstrated by the American Farm Bureau Federation (white). This organization is ten years old with a membership of 303,000 in forty states. They have led the way.

4. URGENT NECESSITY. The colored farmers position, with the vast majority living in southern states make the necessity for co-operative organization all the more urgent in order that economic life might be protected, and that the Negro Farmers might build for themselves a fuller and more satisfying social life.

5. SELF HELP. Not for charity, but the desire of helping himself, the Negro Farmer must take his place beside his white brother in the present economic struggle, and thereby reap the magnificent harvest that comes from a united co-operative effort.

6. THE MODERN FARMER. Our periodical the *Modern Farmer* will from time to time not only serve to promote the best interest of its thousands of readers, but will fill in a bigger way, a long felt need for further advancing the great horde

of colored citizens, who are justly extracting from the farm much of her bounteous riches.

7. BETTER TIMES. A new day of hope looms brightly before the Negro Race with splendid organization and the necessary co-operation, which can come only from the intelligent activities, as will be demonstrated through the National Federation of Colored Farmers.

8. FUTURE OUTLOOK. The future outlook for the Negro, not only on the farm, but in every walk of life, will grow brighter and better. In union there is strength. Modern methods of production and distribution as exemplified by this organization, will do much to bring about the desired conditions for thousands.

9. CONTINUAL GROWTH. The National Federation of Colored Farmers has not come about spontaneously, but with the great mass of her people still on the farm, either as land owners or tenants, produces a splendid opportunity for continual growth as espoused by our organization.

10. ULTIMATE GOAL. With the Negro Farmers fully organized, they will be in position to bargain collectively. Not only in buying supplies and marketing their purchases, but this organization will be a great source of strength to our Race in many other movements that might be begun for the improvement of conditions among Negro Farmers everywhere.

WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER? DUES \$2.50 EVERY SIX MONTHS OR \$5.00 PER ANNUM. JOHN NOW

For further information write National Federation of Colored Farmers, Vincennes Hotel, 36th and Vincennes Avenue, Chicago, Ill.

## THE BETTERMENT OF FARM LIFE

ture says:

The task of improving the lot of the farmer must take into account the betterment of farming conditions and farm life in three general directions. First, farmers generally need to be brought to better and more efficient methods of agriculture, to the end that they can grow better crops at less cost; second, they must be taught to market their crops to the best advantage, through cooperative action, so that they may receive prices that are profitable to them; and third, the home life of the farmers must be improved.

The latter aspect of farm life is commanding the attention of thoughtful farm leaders. Such men as former Secretary of Agriculture William M. Jardine have stressed the need of a better home life on the farms as the fundamental problem of agriculture today.

Farm homes as a rule are lacking in the comforts and conveniences that go to make life pleasant. Some rural homes have all the comforts and conveniences that any one could desire; but the great majority of farms are lacking in them. Only a great deal in the way of conveniences, small percentage of farm homes are well equipped with modern appliances, and tricity is now low, but it is climbing. As they are, in the main, those that are fortunately situated.

According to the last census, only 10 per cent of American farm homes had water piped in; 7 per cent had gas or electric lighting; about 38 per cent had telephones. In some sections, more favorably located than others, the percentages ran higher. In New England, for instance, 48 per cent of the farms had water piped into the homes, and nearly 25 per cent in the States of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania had the same advantage. In Massachusetts 28 per cent of the farms were equipped with gas or electric lights; in Utah, where many farmers live in villages, 43 per cent of the homes enjoyed this convenience, and in California 26 per cent.

In the matter of telephones the percentage of farm homes having this advantage, according to the last census, was as high as 86 per cent in Iowa, 78 per cent in Kansas, 76 per cent in Nebraska, 73 per cent in Illinois, 66 per cent in Indiana and 62 per cent in Minnesota and Missouri.

In the Southern States, we believe, the percentages run considerably lower in all respects.

Aside from modern appliances which make living easier and more pleasant on the farms, there is a need for improvement in farm houses themselves. Discussing this need, the 1928 Yearbook of Agricul-

The architecture of the farmhouse needs study. Houses built to fit farm wants need not lack either beauty or convenience. Part of the money provided for the farm home should be set aside for shrubbery and other adornments. It should be easy to plant the lesson of beauty in the minds and hearts of rural young people, so that when they become farmers their desires will not be limited to the attainment of economic security, but will include also the provision of beauty and harmony in the home and its surroundings. Instruction given to the young people of the farm in home decoration will return its cost a thousandfold. It should be emphasized, however, that the problem is not merely to transplant to the farm what has already been worked out by the city, but rather to adapt improved appliances to the special needs of the farm home.

The percentages with respect to farm comforts and conveniences are now undoubtedly a good bit higher than they were when the last census was taken. But they are still relatively low for the country as a whole.

The electrification of rural sections, in which striking progress has been made in the last few years, will bring to the farms of farms are lacking in them. Only a great deal in the way of conveniences, small percentage of farm homes are well equipped with modern appliances, and tricity is now low, but it is climbing. According to Dr. E. A. White, director of the National Committee on the Relation of Electricity to Agriculture, in 1925 only

of Electricity to Agriculture, in 1925 only 10 per cent of the 6,500,000 farms in the United States had electric service in any form, either through isolated plants or through favorable location to power stations.

The following discussion of rural elec-

trification, taken from The New York Times, contains some interesting information on the subject:

"A comparison of the use of telephones on farms in the United States forms a contrast to the extension of electrical privileges. In 1926, statistics showed that 2,500,000 farm homes had telephones, or approximately 39 per cent, as compared to less than one-quarter of that number enjoying electric service.

"Even a cursory consideration of the possibilities of electrical power on the farm points out a multitude of services and conveniences that grow out of its use. First, and most general, is its use for lighting, in which field its superiority is generally acknowledged.

"It was shown by experiment in Wisconsin that the time consumed doing the chores around the farm was reduced 35 per cent under electric lights from that required by the use of the lantern. Other forms of uses to which electric power may be applied include the following: Artificial lighting of poultry houses (the pro-

duction of eggs has been increased in an experiment by 50 per cent by this procedure), husking and grinding of corn, arating, churning and many others."

"To the housewife power is one of the greatest of all boons. Some of the tasks that power may make lighter for her include ironing, washing, wringing clothes,

NATIONAL FEDERATION OF COLORED  
FARMERS.

~~THE BETTERMENT OF FARM LIFE~~ The task of improving the lot of the farmer, The am-

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WHY NOT BECOME A MEMBER? **MEMBERS \$2.50 EVERY SIX MONTHS** **NON-MEMBERS \$5.00 PER ANNUM.** JOHN NOW for further information write this convenience, and in California 26 per cent. In the matter of telephones the percentage of farms having telephone service were when the last census was taken. But Farm homes as a rule are lacking in the comforts and conveniences that are to make life pleasant. Some rural homes have all the comforts and conveniences that any one could desire, but the great majority of farms are lacking in them. Only a small percentage of farm homes are equipped with modern appliances, and electricity is now low, but it is climbing. Fortunately they are, in the main, those that are fortunately situated.

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Agriculture - 1929

## Improvement of

Albany, Ga., Herald  
Wednesday, February 27, 1929

# Early Planting of Sweet Potatoes Is Urged on Negroes.

Negro farmers are urged to plant sweet potatoes around April 1, in a statement issued today by W. R. King, local Negro farm demonstration agent. Seven-year tests at the Coastal Plain Experiment Station at Tifton show that potatoes planted April 1 has 218 growing days against 173 for potatoes planted May 15, and against 127 for potatoes planted July 1, the statement says, and that the yield from April 1 settings averages almost one-third more than from those set out May 15, and four times as large as from settings of July 1. Also, it is pointed out, potatoes sold from April 1 will, if dug for the early market, sell for more than three times as much per bushel as from a July setting. This money also comes in at a time when it will be of material help in financing the completion of crop cultivation and in the cost of harvesting other crops, the statement says.

"The tests at Tifton also indicate that highest yields may be expected from three foot rows with the plants spaced 16 inches in the drill, while the fertilizer tests are not complete, the indications are that an application of 800 pounds of an 8-4-4 fertilizer per acre is the most profitable," the statement concludes.

Eatonon, Ga., Messenger  
Thursday, August 8, 1929

## NEGRO CHAMPION CHICKEN

### RAISER OF PUTNAM CO.

Jack Slaton Boswell, a sixteen-year old negro namesake of Governor Jack Slaton, according to some recently compiled and verified poultry statistics is the champion chicken raiser of Putnam County. Slaton is a poultry raiser on a bona fide scale and does not raise his fowls from near-by roosts in neighboring barn-

yards, either on moonlight or dark nights, and his poultry raising is a side line to his regular work as a porter for Eatonton's leading grocery store. Asked as to his methods, and the reasons for his really wonderful success, Slaton replied that he liked chickens to eat and liked to watch them grow off, and most of all liked to make money selling them to the poultry cars.

Slaton raises his chickens confined in coops from the time they are hatched until they are marketed and practically ninety per cent of his losses this year have been from accidentally killing the very young chickens in moving their coops. He raises his chickens on "common sense and corn" the former when they are very small and the latter when fattening for marketing.

Early in the spring this young negro ordered one hundred day old chicks from Missouri. Of this number he raised and marketed eighty-eight, at a good profit.

Recently he ordered another hundred, and as an accomodation sold twenty-five of this order to a local Post Office employee. Three of this number died and two were killed in moving their coop. As his first purchase from his poultry profits, Slaton purchased a first class bicycle to expedite his work as a porter, and paid "spot cash" for the bicycle. Local poultry raisers have been amazed by this young negro's extraordinary success as an amateur chicken raiser and he has the profits and the chickens to prove his facts and figures for 1929. Next spring he hopes still greater success, will crown his efforts on a larger scale.

## NEGRO SCHOOLS AND WORK FARM TRAINING.

Georgia. good work under the direction of Professor Williamson. He had farm projects at school and taught the boys the theory of certain kinds of farm work, at the same time actually doing the work on farm plots. As cotton is very important this has been one of the main crops to study. In the school community they have 70 cotton projects ranging from one to two acres for the boys and from five to seven and on up to thirty acres for the older farmers.

### COTTON PROJECTS.

With these cotton projects the boys and men were taught in the classes at school in regard to methods to raise cotton and beat the boll weevil. Seed selection, or securing improved seed, rapid cultivation, fertilizing with high grade guano and lots of it, was stressed. They were told to use from 600

to 800 pounds of nitrate of soda to the acre as a side dressing to stimulate rapid development of the plant. This was to be done when the cotton was first chopped.

Of course all the farmers did not follow these directions exactly; some applied the soda as directed when the cotton was small, some applied it when the plant was about 18 inches high and some when the squares began to form. Not all of them felt they were able to buy as much soda and fertilizer as was advised. The results will be very interesting to all. Those who used soda early and who fertilized heavily are getting the best yield. As an account of amounts used and cultivation on all these projects are being kept the farmers will be able to compare results and see which ones get best yields.

The Free Press takes it for granted that the entire county is interested in any work which will improve farming conditions and bring better results to any group of farmers, and the results of the various projects in the Dry Lake school communities will be reported as soon as the crops are gathered and marketed.

### THE TEACHER.

Incidentally, the teacher, E. E. Williamson, who is the leader in this farm program, has been in the coun-

ty less than two years. He does the planting early, using early maturing varieties, picking up squares and poisoning as a means of keeping down the entire year instead of just for the boll weevil damage. Dempsey Wooten is one of the farmers who has a cotton project and has been working with weeks' course of study. Five-eighths of his salary is paid by the federal Smith-Hughes Fund and the balance from the county school funds.

They were also instructed as to the usual school work in addition to the agricultural work. He is in the work of the entire year instead of just for the boll weevil damage. Dempsey Wooten is one of the farmers who has a cotton project and has been working with weeks' course of study. Five-eighths of his salary is paid by the federal Smith-Hughes Fund and the balance from the county school funds.

Of course the point to this is that in an agricultural county like this all the important county schools should have vocational agricultural work and if they do not have it the proportion of this Smith-Hughes fund which could be had in the county goes to some other county.

### COTTON CONTESTS.

As is known there are various contests in which prizes are offered for good yields. There is a state wide contest for colored boys in which the Chilean Nitrate of Soda Co. offers prizes for the best cotton. Around these schools mentioned there are ten boys in that contest, each cultivating two acres.

There is another contest which is open to white and colored. Prizes are offered by Sears-Roebuck Co. for the best cotton stalks. One stalk and the number of bolls and quality count for prizes. A number of boys and men will compete in this.

### OTHER CROP PROJECTS.

Among the other school projects are corn and spring truck projects of from

one to five acres in which both boys Brooks county tradition, won prizes and men are working. Improved on every exhibit. The vocational methods were used, accounts kept and results noted. The teacher tells of the different types of soil and what fertilizers they call for, of how to cultivate, of how to keep records on crops, and other things which introduce business methods in farming.

### FOUR-YEAR PROGRAM.

This vocational agricultural work is based on a 4 year program. The first year: Farm crops, which covers the sort of work just discussed—how to increase yields and improve land.

Second year: Live stock and poultry. Improving breeds, feeding, pasture, disease control. Poultry and eggs for market.

Third year: Horticulture. Orchards, small fruits, berries, gardens.

Fourth year: Farm management. Home improvement and sanitation. Health conditions.

Of course the first year's work is carried on each year and amplified and with each successive year the work done the previous years is continued and improved. This program carried out by a competent leader with the school as a center of operations will improve any community, white or colored, in rural districts.

The Free Press takes it for granted that the entire county is interested in any work which will improve farming conditions and bring better results to any group of farmers, and the results of the various projects in the Dry Lake school communities will be reported as soon as the crops are gathered and marketed.

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At Flat Shoals we shall be organized into committees. Each committee shall have a definite phase of farm life for observation.

We believe that great good can be accomplished by such a survey and we are therefore asking all white land owners to encourage their Negro tenants to set aside all business and join the party.

GEO. E. ARCHIBALD,  
Teacher of Agriculture, Hartwell, Ga

Friday, August 9, 1929

## ARCHIBALD TO HEAD TOUR OF COLORED FARMERS OVER HART COUNTY AUGUST 9

On Friday, August 9th (Friday after 1st Sunday) I am inviting each and every one of you to join me in visiting the outstanding Negro farm sections in this county.

Our party shall leave the school building at 9 a. m., for Flat Shoals, Camp Ground, Colored Zion, Saint John, Maple Springs, Flat Rock, Saint James, McGee Bridge road, Alford Bridge road, Walter Brown's, back to Hartwell.

At Flat Shoals we shall be organized into committees. Each committee shall have a definite phase of farm life for observation.

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## NEGRO FARMERS SHOW PRODUCTS

Excellent Exhibits Entered in

Brooks Fair

QUITMAN, Ga., Oct. 19.—For the first time in the history of the county, Negro farmers had an exhibit in a big fair, and true to

SUN

Columbus, Ga.

MAY 9 1929

## Picturesque Case of Negro Farmer in Dougherty County.

One cannot help wondering, as he reads so much about the desertion of farms throughout the South by the sons of farmers and by the entire family, for that matter, if it will come about, in future years, that a large part of the farm holdings will pass into the hands of Negro agriculturists? Our demonstration agents give striking accounts from time to time of the success of Negro farmers, not only in demonstration agents, in cotton, poultry and stock-cotton, but in truck farming, stock and poultry-raising contests, and by encouraging them to try raising and in all that pertains to agriculture. And now comes a remarkable story of the passing of a noted plantation tract into the ownership of a Dougherty county Negro farmer.

We read in the Albany *Herald* of the purchase of the old Phil Cook plantation, embracing 1400 acres, near the Terrell county line, by a former Negro tenant farmer who has lived and worked on the plantation for many years. This man and his family now occupy the state-department and through a program of goodly white-columned mansion formerly occupied by General Cook and his family during a great part of the latter's lifetime. General Cook represented the Third district in Congress and later became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office until his death. The Cook place was recently sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the heirs and it was knocked down to John Murphy, a descendant of one of the former family slaves, for \$16,000.

The Albany *Herald* in recounting this incident says:

This Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section.

## TELEGRAPH

Macon, Ga

### WHERE WALK GHOSTS

The flavor of romance is not lacking in the recent sale of the old Phil Cook plantation, in Lee county, to a Negro who has been a tenant on its broad acres for years.

The Cook plantation, embracing 1,400 acres, is near the Terrell county line, and on it its owner, General Phil Cook, lived for many years. He represented the Third District in Congress, then became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office till his death. He was succeeded as secretary of state by his son and namesake, who had been born on the Lee county plantation, and who in turn held the office in which his father had died till his own death some years ago.

The Cook place was sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the heirs.

lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of croppers—is bid in at an auction sale by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped make "the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence.

There is so much that is indicative of the altered and altering status of the South in the foregoing transaction that a story or play might centre about it. Its economic import is as

striking as its picturesqueness. For it proves beyond doubt the advance of the Negro agriculturist to an important place in Southern agrarian life. The American Negro is well adapted by disposition, physique and habit to

successful farming. In all Southern states, the policy of agricultural departments during recent years has been to give instruction in scientific agriculture to Negro farmers through demonstration agents, in cotton, poultry and stock-

cotton, but in truck farming, stock and poultry-raising contests, and by encouraging them to

try raising and in all that pertains to agriculture. And now comes a remarkable story of the passing of a noted plantation tract into the ownership of a Dougherty county Negro farmer.

We have had occasion to comment a number of times on the fine work of the students at the Georgia State Industrial College for Negroes near Savannah and on the excellent displays of Negro farmers at the Chattahoochee Valley Fair.

It is well to offer every encouragement to Negroes to stay on the farms, and, aside from the help given them by our state agricultural

department and through a program of good roads, the rigidly impartial administration of justice in the case of abuses or terrorizing of

Negroes in the country should be one of the most practical means of making farm life attractive to them.

Happily, Ku Klux terrorism is almost a thing of the past in this state and lynching has been for several years on the decrease. Let it be

stamped out altogether, give the industrious rural Negro an opportunity to educate his children and to market profitably his produce and

we believe there will be a substantial increase in Georgia of Negro farmers of the calibre of John Murphy and many others like him.

One cannot help wondering, as he reads so much about the desertion of farms throughout the South by the sons of farmers and by the entire family, for that matter, if it will come about, in future years, that a large part of the farm holdings will pass into the hands of Negro agriculturists? Our demonstration agents

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The Albany *Herald* in recounting this incident says:

The Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three or four thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages, and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War these great Southwest Georgia plantations sent tons of food supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the support of General Lee's all-too-often hungry legions that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy."

In later years the big plantation has had its troubles. The tenant system had shortcomings the nature and wastefulness of which are well known. Once fertile acres suffered from neglect on the part of those who did not own them. The "country aristocracy" moved to town, and its sons became merchants, lawyers, doctors and manufacturers instead of farmers.

Now one of these fine old plantations—a place that was a social center till long after the Civil War, whose owners made it yield abundant crops and maintained it in fine condition, but who in time felt the lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of croppers—is bid in at an auction by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped make "the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence.

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During the Civil War these great Southwest Georgia



Agriculture-1929

# Improvement of FARM CIVILIZATION UPLIFT IS PLANNED

## Plea for Economically Sound Agricultural Life Heard at Meeting of Reclamation Chairmen.

The civilization of the entire south is at stake under the existing farming conditions and agriculture, our chief industry, must be made economically sound if prosperity is to be made permanent, declared Hugh McRae of Atlanta, Ga., who presided at the all-day meeting yesterday of the chairmen of the Southern States Associated Committee on Reclamation, which was attended by representatives of 10 southern states.

*Atlanta, Ga.*  
"Contrary to public opinion, we are not interested in the reclamation of farm lands but in directing our entire attention to the upbuilding of rural civilization in the south as a means of salvation for this section of the country," Mr. McRae declared. "The one-crop system is a thing of the past," he went on. "It is not successful in this day and time and farming must be regulated to meet the new economic conditions. Experience has shown that it is useless to tell farmers how to regulate their crops and it is our idea that they must be shown by the establishment of model farms in each of the ten southern states and with the help of the department of the interior and the securing of the necessary appropriation, we hope to be able to carry out this plan."

It was pointed out that the state of Florida spends \$125,000,000 a year for foodstuffs, while it ships out only \$100,000,000, and this was said to be typical of the entire south. Plans for offsetting this balance of trade are being considered by the conference.

Mr. McRae stated that the Crisp-McKellar bill, which was introduced in the house of representatives in December, 1927, had been successfully opposed because of misinterpretations of the measure and that every effort would be made to rearrange it to eliminate opposition from this source in the firm belief that the measure would pass on its merits. The bill is entitled an act "To authorize the creation of organized rural communities to demonstrate methods of reclamation and benefits of planned rural development," and Mr. McRae cited several instances of persons opposing the bill and later changing their position after becoming familiar with the real purpose.

### Approaching Farm Problems.

The afternoon session of the conference was devoted to discussions of important avenues of approach to the solutions of the existing farm prob-

lems in the belief that a thorough research of the situation would bring about an answer. Many members of the state committees present, some of whom are outstanding farm experts, gave their views as to the most practical methods of getting the desired results of rebuilding a satisfactory rural life. Much thought was given to the details of a program to be worked out by committees and submitted to the conference this morning.

George C. Kreutzer, representing Dr. Elwood Mead, of the reclamation bureau of the department of the interior, declared that the realization of the organized community project marked the "quickest way for prosperity in the south." "It is a plan to put the south on a sound economic basis where it can feed itself," he stated. It was pointed out that similar ideas already had been successfully worked in a number of foreign countries, including New Zealand, Germany, Holland, Australia and others.

### Quotes Dr. Branson.

He quoted Dr. E. C. Branson, professor of rural economics at the University of North Carolina, who has devoted much time and study to the problem of farm life in the south, and the meeting approved his summary of the situation as a guide that could be safely followed in the general program. A committee was appointed to wire President-elect Hoover asking that the association be given an early hearing on the matter and it was predicted that the question would have a successful termination under his administration.

A finance committee was appointed to work out plans whereby each state concerned could make the necessary arrangements to participate in the financial program of the association. Dr. W. H. Mills heads a committee to review the Crisp-McKellar bill to eliminate words or features that might prove barriers to further progress in helping the farmers of the south. L. J. Folsom, chairman of the Mississippi delegation, was made chairman of the publicity committee.

The conference adjourned at 6:30 o'clock Monday night and will convene again at 9 o'clock this morning to hear and discuss the findings of the various committees.

*S. C. News and Courier*  
Not Solely on Farming

The serious depression in farming in South Carolina, the seriousness is not likely to be exaggerated, does not necessarily mean that the state as a whole cannot and does not prosper.

If two million acres of lands in farms have been abandoned in the last seven years, where are the people who abandoned them? A large number of negro farmers, but not all, have left South Carolina. Most of the white people remain. Those who are still within the state, having ceased to be tenant farmers, or farmers of poor and mortgaged lands, are now wage earners. A negro family that lived meagerly a dozen years ago in

Union county on a hundred acres of rough and worn lands, promising the landlord two bales of cotton and obtaining supplies from a merchant, dwelling in a squalid cabin and producing barely enough to keep off starvation, after paying the rent, contributed nothing to the wealth of the state. If a horse on a farm produce no more than its feed the farmer better had not own it.

Almost invariably when a man who has failed on the farm leaves and comes to be a wage earner, a worker on highways or bridges, or houses under construction, or in factories, his value to the commonwealth increases. His labor begins to fruit in a little more than scanty subsistence. The landlord and perhaps dealers in fertilizers are losers, but the commonwealth is the gainer. One traveling in South Carolina and hearing nearly everywhere mournful and true stories of losses on the farms marvels at the unmistakable signs of prosperity.

He sees new cottages in all the villages and extending far out in the suburbs of the large towns and cities. He sees increasing thousands of motors. The explanation in part is that the wage earning class in South Carolina has notably increased in the last ten years and wages, though lower than they should be in some of the industries, are much higher than they were before the Great War.

Heretofore one has never been able to think of a prosperous South Carolina without a prosperous agriculture, and it is deplorable that agriculture does not flourish. The tragedy of a life spent on the farm and ending in the loss of the farm is not to be disputed. Still, a state materially and highly prosperous with agriculture sunk to a third or fourth place in importance is conceivable. Probably South Carolina is a long way from that, but it is setting out in the direction of it and making progress.

If our people can't raise cotton, tobacco, fruits, vegetables and livestock and sell them at prices that make living comfortable and decent, let other people raise them.

*Waverross, Ga. Journal-Herald*  
Sunday, January 13, 1929

## ACTIVITIES OF NEGRO FARMERS FOR YEAR 1928

Colored County Agent Makes Report for Two Months Work.

Ware county colored Agricultu-

Georgia

Waverross, Ga. Journal-Herald  
Friday, February 8, 1929

## NEGRO FARMERS ARE SHOWING ACTIVITY

Fifteen negro farmers in Ware county have started demonstrations in oats, according to a report made to State College officials by Alex Hurse, negro county agent. Forty-eight full gardens are being cultivated by negro farmers, and 7,500 cabbage plants are set out.

Post

March 29, 1929

## Prizes Offered To Strictly Colored Farmers of County

County Agent R. L. Vansant is in receipt of notice from fertilizer companies that they will offer special cash prizes for the best five acres of cotton and a similar number of acres of corn grown in the Cobb county strictly by colored farmers, whether tenants or landowners.

All who are interested in competing for the prizes should send their names at once or call on Mr. Vansant. Further details of the contest will be published next week.

Monroe, Ga. Walton News  
Tuesday, February 19, 1929

### Industrious Negro Farmers.

Wednesday afternoon we had a little time that we decided to spend in the woods and out near the open fields, and en route going and coming, we took occasion to pass the farms and homes of two of Walton county's best known and most highly-respected negroes, Wallace Williams and Oscar Stone. It is heartening to see just how much these darkies have

done toward their crops this year, and there is every indication of a live-at-home program with these tenants.

### October

Urged the creating of clubs for veterans and the planting of oats. gave demonstration in culling try.

Twenty-four garden demonstration started. Made a survey of the farm plants and organized one junior and one adult club.

### November

Encouraged farmers to break their land in the fall. Five registered pigs were bought cooperatively for club boys. Twenty-two club members put on exhibits at the Southeast Georgia Fair. Farmers were advised to repair houses and fences.

news  
Blakely, Ga.

APR 11 1929

## WHERE WALK GHOSTS

The flavor of romance is not lacking in the recent sale of the old Phil Cook plantation, in Lee county, to a Negro who has been a tenant on its broad acres for 18 years.

The Cook plantation, embracing 1,400 acres, is near Terrell county line, and on it its owner, General Phil Cook, lived for many years. He represented the Third District in Congress, then became Georgia's secretary of state, holding the latter office till his death. He was succeeded as secretary of state by his son and namesake, who had been born on the Lee county plantation, and who in turn held the office in which his father had died till his own death some years ago.

The Cook place was sold at auction for the purpose of effecting a division among the heirs. The sale attracted a large crowd, but the bidding was not spirited, owing to the fact that large plantations are not now in demand. The Negro tenant to whom the place was knocked down obtained it for \$16,000. He is John Murphy, a practical and successful farmer who is highly thought of in his community.

This Negro farmer, the descendant of slaves, thus becomes the owner of a plantation that is fairly typical of those landed estates which in an earlier day were the pride of this section. Lee, Terrell, Randolph, Calhoun, Dougherty, Baker, Mitchell, Early and Decatur counties embraced scores of great plantations ranging in area from one to three thousand acres each. Their owners constituted the landed aristocracy of this section, for they were men of wealth and influence whose sons and daughters enjoyed the best educational and social advantages, and whose country homes were models of elegance and comfort.

During the Civil War these great Southwest Georgia plantations sent tons of food supplies to the Confederate armies. So rich was their contribution to the support of General Lee's all-too-often hungry legions that this section came to be known as the "Egypt of the Confederacy."

In later years the big plantation has had its troubles. The tenant system had shortcomings the nature and wastefulness of which are well

known. Once fertile acres suffered from neglect on the part of those who did not own them. The "country aristocracy" moved to town, and its sons became merchants, lawyers, doctors and manufacturers instead of farmers.

Now one of these fine old plantations—a place that was a social center till long after the Civil War, whose owners made it yield abundant crops and maintained it in fine condition, but who in time felt the lure of the city and left 1,400 splendid acres to the tender mercies of cropers—is bid in at an auction sale by a descendant of those who, as slaves, helped "make the glory that was" in a day of rural magnificence. For great changes have come to pass in 60 years, and the big plantation of a golden age can no longer hold its own—Albany Herald.

## Forest, Farm and Factory Program Is in Preparation At College of Agriculture

### Plan Features Cow-Hog-

### Hen Program as Basis.

### Reforestation, Poultry,

### Fruit Growing Included

coming in every month, and even more often, from the sale of poultry, fills a very important place in the family program.

#### Fruit Trees.

"The planting of pecan trees and other fruit trees that are adapted to our section will be urged. Sanitation and health measures will be included as well as necessary measures to make the home and premises attractive in appearance.

Waycross, Ga., July 1.—(Special)

The forest, farm and factory program adopted by the Southeast Georgia Co-operative Association, as well as the Waycross and Ware County Chamber of Commerce, is now being arranged by the Georgia State College of Agriculture at Athens and will be

Every cow, hog and hen on the farm becomes a factory for converting raw material into a finished product. When given the proper care and attention the dividends derived from this industrial enterprise are great. Corn can be made to increase its value by 300 per cent and grass can be sold at a fabulous price. It can be done, and it is being done, but it takes effort, care, knowledge and a desire to make something more than an ordinary existence.

J. S. Elkins, author of the plan. "When the program is completed the program features the cow, hog, hen and fruit trees as a basis upon which to Georgia Fair premium catalog, and make diversified farming in south Georgia a paying proposition, for distribution throughout the 14 southeast Georgia counties comprising the Southeast Georgia Co-operative

When given the proper care and attention the dividends derived from this industrial enterprise are great. Corn can be made to increase its value by 300 per cent and grass can be sold at a fabulous price. It can be done, and it is being done, but it takes effort, care, knowledge and a desire to make something more than an ordinary existence.

"The reforestation of acres unsuited for farming will be recommended, and also the replacing of wire grass with carpet grass to provide pasture of real value for cows and hogs," Mr. Elkins stated today in commenting on the three-cornered program.

"Another item of especial interest in the program will be poultry and poultry products. There is hardly any doubt that Waycross, in the very near future, will become an established poultry and egg market of great importance. And the growers have learned from recent experiences that money

Washington, Ga., News-Reporter  
Friday, November 1, 1929

## JIM SMITH, HANCOCK COUNTY

One of the most successful colored farmers of Hancock County, is Jim Smith, who lives about three miles east of Sparta. Jim owns two farms but rents out one of them and lives on the other, which contains one hundred and six acres.

He bought this farm in 1927 for \$2,000.00 and has it all paid except one note for \$400.00 which is not due yet. He bought 76 acres of land in 1918 at \$70.00 per acre that he owns now and has a clear title to it, and he owns some property around Sparta.

Jim does not depend much on cotton for a money crop, but goes in more for truck crops and especially sweet potatoes and feeds out to a number of hogs to sell each year.

He sells from 700 to 800 bushels of sweet potatoes each year at \$1.00 per bushel and plants four acres in truck crops, from which he averages selling \$100 worth per month, including ten to fifteen pounds of butter each week, which he sells to regular customers, and about \$100.00 worth of poultry and eggs.

He says he never goes to town unless he carries something to sell and pays cash for everything he buys.

He grows all of the food and feed stuff necessary to run his own farm and usually has some to sell and grows cotton as a sideline crop.

Jim owns a Dodge car and a Ford truck that he uses for carrying his products to market.

The fact that he held on to the farm he bought in 1918 at a high price and paid for it, is proof enough he is a man that can be depended upon and deserves recognition for doing well among his own race.

The above is taken from the Georgia Co-operative Bulletin, issued by the Georgia Co-operative Railroads, and edited by M.

What Georgia needs is  
and colored. It will  
like a rose.

Agriculture is the  
ity in Georgia. The  
dollars of feedstuf  
stock and cattle,  
cheaper than the  
"Jim Smiths"  
sured.—Wilkes

Agriculture - 1929

Improvement of

# FARMERS TO HAVE GUILD

2/10/29  
Launch Program Of Co-  
Operative Marketing;  
Wants 25,000 Member-  
ship.

CHICAGO, Ill., Feb. 14.—(A. N. P.) — Declaring that the Negro farmer was one of the least protected productive units in the country and that the future of black tillers of the soil lies in organization, James Perry Davis, president of the National Federation of Colored Farmers, announced here this week the launching of a program of co-operative marketing for Negro farmers.

Mr. Davis, formerly of Georgia, a brother-in-law of Bishop A. J. Carey, has for the past several years conducted a successful produce commission business in Indiana. Many of the carloads of melons and much of the other produce he sold was shipped to him by Negro farmers of the South. Mr. Davis said in explaining how he had demonstrated the practicability of his plan:

"We want 25,000 Negro farmers to enter our co-operative organization this year," said Mr. Davis. "By elimination of the middleman and encouragement of diversified planting, we will create a new market which will revolutionize the Negro farmers' income."

Offices of the National Federation of Colored Farmers have been established in the Vincennes Hotel, Chicago. "Few people," said Mr. Davis, "realize the tremendous potentiality of the Negro farmer. The white farmer has long ago seen the necessity for co-operative action."

## EXPECT RUSH TO CO-OPS IN QUEST OF FARM AID Chicago Leaders Here See Or- ganization Boom.

7/10/29  
BY ARTHUR EVANS.

Agricultural leaders in Chicago held yesterday that a drive to bring the farmers into co-operative organizations is the next step to make effective the agencies contemplated in the new farm relief act. Following the announcement in Washington of Alexander Legge, chairman of the federal farm board, that the loaning operations of the board are apparently limited to giving financial assistance to regularly organized co-operatives, the leaders looked for a movement of farmers to join up and for the coalescing of many co-operatives into big units.

At present the middle west is the area in which co-operative organization is at its highest. The consensus of opinion at the headquarters of the agricultural associations in Chicago is that when the board defines its policy in greater detail, one matter which needs bringing into high relief is that of incentive to join the co-operatives.

### Prices First Consideration.

As the leaders view it, the first benefit sought in the farm relief measure is stabilized and profitable prices for agricultural commodities. In this, it is pointed out, producers will share, regardless of whether they join a co-operative or not. The stabilization price process, however, is to be brought about through the instrumentality of the co-operatives.

To build up the co-operatives, the argument is, some differential is needed between those who join and those who do not. In other words, the leaders argue, the co-operatives must be able to lay weight upon the "patronage dividend" to members, and to emphasize that if successful a melon will be

cut at the end of a season in which nonmember farmers will not share.

The farm relief bill having been built around the co-operatives and the idea that agriculture should build itself through its own agencies, with aid from the government, the farm organizations yesterday laid weight on the idea that it is now up to the farmer to become a shareholder in his own enterprises.

### Farmer Must Take Part.

The Illinois Agricultural association in its periodical says: "The agricultural marketing act and the federal farm board, it is hoped, will point the way to stabilization at a profitable level. Farmers recognize their responsibility in the work that lies ahead. We must learn first, however, that co-operation means the individual support of every farmer to his live stock shipping association, producers' commission association, co-operative fruit and vegetable growers' association, seed growers' exchange, cream shipping association, co-operative farmers' elevator, co-operative farm supply company and the farm bureau."

Government figures show 2,000,000 farmers organized out of a total of 6,500,000 last year. The co-operative farmers in their 12,000 associations sold collectively farm products to the value of nearly \$2,000,000,000. They bought farm supplies to the value of nearly \$500,000,000 dollars.

Counting in shareholders, consignors, and patrons, the government credits 3,000,000 identified with the active co-operative associations.

### Most in Elevator Group.

Of the farmers in co-operatives nearly one-third are members of farmer elevator associations, one-fifth belong to co-operative creameries, cheese factories, or milk market organizations. About 50,000 are selling poultry products co-operatively, about 25,000 are acting co-operatively in marketing their annual wool clip, and nearly 150,000 are members of cotton co-ops.

About one-third of the farmers in the country are in co-operatives. But 70 per cent of the total membership is in the twelve north central states. Minnesota is at the head of the states, with Iowa second and Illinois third. Wisconsin and Michigan are well up toward the top.

The dairying industry is the most highly organized from the co-operative point, while grain raising is one of the least organized.

### 180,000 Organized in Iowa.

Iowa, which has 214,000 farms, has 180,000 farmers in co-operative associations, according to the last government survey, out for the year 1925. Illinois,

with 226,000 farms, had 131,000 farmers in co-operatives in 1925. Wisconsin, with 193,000 farms, had 120,000 members of 1,092 co-operative associations. Minnesota had 217,000 farmers in co-operatives and 188,000 farms. Michigan, with 192,000 farms, had 128,000 farmers in co-ops.

Missouri had 170,000 co-operative farmers and 260,000 farms.

In the volume of business done by the co-operatives, Minnesota led with a quarter of a billion dollars' worth, followed closely by California. Illinois was third with 260 million dollars; Iowa fourth with 172 million dollars; Wisconsin next with 113 million dollars. Michigan stood twelfth with 82 million dollars' worth of products sold co-operatively.

While dairying is highly organized in Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Minnesota, grain marketing in Illinois is rated among the least affected by co-operatives at present. One put out from the Illinois Agricultural association yesterday was that in one year on the Chicago market, the co-operative terminal commission agency sold through its subsidiary, the Rural Grain company, only three and a half bushels of grain.

### Not Selling Enough.

"This is not enough," it says: "More than 200 million bushels of grain are sold there annually. If the farmer hopes to be a factor in the market he should have in the hands of his own terminal sales agency a large volume of the grain sold. Today he is not handling co-operatively on the terminal markets enough to make a good showing."

The Illinois, according to the association, farm bureau effort in the last eight or ten years has developed over 500 live stock shipping associations for Illinois. Thirteen producer commission agencies farmer owned are operating at terminal markets. Cream shipping coops in Illinois are set forth as having secured increases of from 3 cents to 10 cents per pound for butter fat for members.

Most of the states in which co-operatives are successfully operating have fairly uniform co-operative laws. Some years ago there was a movement for a standard law. Some of its main provisions are "one member, one vote," the first principle of co-ops, and provisions for selling of stock necessary to provide funds on an interest basis. The profits are to go back as patronage dividends to the patrons. They are in general exempt from corporation and income tax and from the anti-trust law.

Agriculture - 1929

## Improvement of KANSAS WHEAT MEN COLD TO FARM PLAN

Good Crops Responsible for  
Present Casual Interest in  
Board's Activities.

### ALLEN WOULD CURB ALIENS

Senator to Ask Congress to Limit  
Immigration to 100,000 for  
Next Five Years.

By ROY BUCKINGHAM.

Editorial Correspondence of THE NEW YORK  
TIMES.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Aug. 7.—The Kansas grain farmer's reaction to the proposed national marketing corporation whose stock he is to be asked to purchase at \$20 per farmer member, puts him in the same class as the Missouri farmer of whom it is said, "He has to be shown." The Kansas wheat farmer particularly has come out so much better this year on his wheat than he had expected that his interest in the national marketing group is truly casual at present. *74*

The Kansas farmer is no hillbilly. He has his radio, motor cars and hired help. He farms with power machinery, has his books audited, makes a confidant of his banker and thinks about his own affairs. He spends his Winters in California. When Senator Henry J. Allen went to Western Kansas to discuss the farm bill at various meetings, the city men showed more interest in the marketing plan than the farmers. The latter refused to postpone preparations of the seed bed for the 1930 wheat crop in order to hear the eloquent Wichita man plead for Hoover's farm relief plan.

As wheat farmers are in the majority in Kansas, their reaction to the proposed marketing corporation may be indicative of the attitude of farmers in general in that State. There are more than 600 cooperative groups in Kansas—that is, farmer members of cooperative elevators who market through the Farmers' Commission Company. Cooperative marketing, then, is nothing new to them. They understand the proposed measure and their leaders believe they will fit nicely into the super-cooperative.

#### Skepticism Persists.

Kansas,

However, there are other farmers who operate independently or at least through the other farm organizations such as the Farmer's Union, the Equity and the Grange. Some of these men believe the formation of this gigantic pool will mean the scrapping of the organizations whose battles they have fought for many years. They will not do this with good grace. At least, there will have to be missionary work by farm leaders who inspire leadership and will be trusted.

More than one farmer has said the Federal Farm Board needs more prestige with what they term "honest-to-goodness" farmers. By that they mean men who actually are farmers and not organizers. If there is a weak spot in the farm board, and Kansas wheat farmers think there is, it is its city-farmer complexion. This remark is heard frequently in the Southwest wheat centre at Dodge City: "Mr. Hoover may know how to organize business men and executives of that type, but he doesn't know the farmer or he would have had more genuine farmers on his board."

So it is with this handicap, the farm board must function in the Southwest. The personnel of the committee of sixteen, however, has allayed some of the distrust. There are men in that group who have worked with the farmers and have their respect and confidence. Kansas newspapers, however, generally regret the President's failure to name H. L. Hartshorn of Ford. This man does his hitch with his sons in the wheat harvest and is a director in his town elevator company.

The success of the farm measure, then, as it relates to the wheat industry in Kansas will be measured by the success of the committee of sixteen in drafting a plan for permanent organization. Unless there are men in control of its operations who inspire the confidence of the farmer and are able to sell him the cooperative idea, the relief plan will not rate high. This type of man will not be a "patriot" or a "draftee" whose acquaintance with actual grain farming problems is based on observation and childhood on the farm.

Agriculture - 1929  
Improvement of

# BIG FARM BODY TO BE ORGANIZED

National Cooperative Coun-  
cil of American Institute  
of Cooperation Formed In  
Baton Rouge, La.

Louisiana.

BATON ROUGE, La., Aug. 2.—(AP) Formation of what is contemplated as the largest and most representative union of agricultural interests ever attempted in the United States was undertaken here today with organization of the national cooperative council of the American Institute of Cooperation.

Eight of the leading cooperatives in the country, representing one hundred commodity groups, number a membership of more than a million farmers, participated in the preliminary work of organization.

C. O. Moser, Dallas, Tex., president of the American Institute of Cooperation and head of the American Cotton Growers Exchange, was named temporary president of the new council, with Charles W. Holman, Washington, secretary of the institute and of the National Cooperative Milk Producers Federation, acting secretary.

The object of the council, speakers at the organization meeting declared, was to give the farmer a concerted voice in matters dealing with American agriculture. Headquarters will be established in Washington.

It is the purpose of the organizers to gather all of the cooperatives in the country into a unified group at the council table and operate on the principle of unanimous consent.

The council probably will not be incorporated for several weeks, pending conferences with cooperatives not represented here today.

Agriculture - 1929

Improvement

News  
Friday, March 29, 1929

## For Colored Farmers and Dairymen

(By E. W. Hayes, Agricultural Instructor of Oktibbeha County Training School for Colored)

### Properly Breaking Cotton Lands.

The first and proper thing to do in planning out a cotton crop, is to properly locate and select the proper lands on which to grow cotton. By thorough investigation, you will find that all varieties of cotton do their best and make their highest production on rich loam soils and rich surface soils with a clay subsoil, providing that said soils are properly drained. Remember that cotton will not and cannot do well on low wet marshy lands and that it is a dry weather plant.

Taking the above truths into favorable consideration, it behoves us to see to it that our cotton lands are properly drained. We need not go to any great unreasonable expense to drain our cotton lands, if we have a main ditch or canal running through our cotton farm, then the most economical thing to do is to take a double team hitched to a 14-inch turning plow and plow out drain ditches from all low sections of our cotton lands, to the said main ditch or canal, which will give us a perfect drainage, thus affording an outlet for all surplus water. We know that cotton needs very little rain indeed, the most rain it needs is during its growing season, during its fruiting and maturing stage it needs practically no rain but plenty of hot sun shine.

Having properly located, selected, and drained our cotton lands, now comes the proper time to

### NEGRO HAND RAYS

TRACTOR 32 HOURS.

COLUMBUS, Miss., June 8.—L. F. Bryne, insurance man at Billups, eight miles west of here, in Lowndes County, reported that one of his colored tractor drivers, Edgar Hawkins, operated a tractor for 32 consecutive hours, with only 30 minutes out for one meal. Mr. Bryne said that power farming is enabling the operation of the farm with one-third less labor than formerly. His farm includes 960 acres of rich fine prairie land.

break our cotton lands properly. Before you begin breaking your cotton lands, look up your cotton land breaking record and see just how deep you broke said lands last season, if you broke it (5) five inches deep, then you should

break it this season (6) six inches deep, one inch deeper each succeeding year or season until you have broken said lands (8) eight inches deep which will be deep enough. The object for breaking cotton lands one inch deeper each year or season, is to deepen the soil and to give nature an opportunity to convert the newly broken soil into a productive condition, by making available the plant food contained in said soil, for feeding the cotton plant. Remember you should always break your cotton lands with a double team hitched to a ten or twelve inch turning plow, running two furrows with said turning plow, breaking the middles out with a twelve inch middle buster. Be sure to break all your cotton lands while in a dry condition in order that you may be able to thoroughly pulverize said lands. If you break said lands while wet, you will ruin the texture of said soils and the hot sun shine will bake the sods turned up in a wet condition, these sods and will remain in the said baked or the owners. This, of course, has a hard condition throughout cultivation period of the cotton crop.

Remember that if your cotton lands are allowed to remain in the said hard baked condition (which they are sure to be if broken wet) there will be a many thousand of tons of valuable fertilizers fasten up in the said hard baked soil, thereby preventing the cotton plant from being properly fed which will result in a very short cotton crop indeed, hence we can readily see the reason for not breaking our cotton lands while wet. Let us do our best to get through breaking our cotton lands April 1st, in order that said lands may have plenty of time to settle down thus giving us a solid bed to plant our cotton crop on.

Having finished breaking your cotton lands, take a disk harrow and disk said lands about an inch

deep, following said disk with your section harrow, letting your planter follow your section harrow, planting your cotton about one inch deep. Do your best to get all your cotton planted by April the 20th.

Don't forget your Gardens: Plant mustard, lettuce, radishes, carrots, beets, rape, spring turnips, spinach, and tomatoe seed in hot beds, also egg plants in hot beds, set cabbage and onion plants. Plant Irish potatoes and bed sweet potatoes. Plant corn for early roasting ears.

### A COLONY OF FARM OWNERS

About five years ago the Laurel Chamber of Commerce organized a company for the purpose of working out a demonstration in the settlement of cut-over lands in this territory (Jones county, Mississippi).

The company purchased 1,500 acres of average land six miles south of Laurel, divided same into farms averaging 60 acres each, cleared and fenced 20 acres on each farm, erected a four-room house, a barn and other necessary improvements on each farm, adding the actual cost of the improvements to the sales price on the land, and giving terms to purchasers running through a period of ten years, with six percent interest.

In 1928 the company completed this settlement, having sold all of the units to settlers and are reasonably well pleased with the experiment.

The farm lands in this section of Mississippi are owned in small areas and are cultivated as a usual thing by

will remain in the said baked or the owners. This, of course, has a hard condition throughout cultivation period of the cotton crop.

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lands may have plenty of time to

settle down thus giving us a solid

bed to plant our cotton crop on.

Having finished breaking your cotton lands, take a disk harrow and disk said lands about an inch

Mississippi.

A few days ago, Mr. W. L. Willis of the Hamilton country was in our office, and he told us about a negro family, living on the W. D. Walton place, which has done remarkably well the past year. Mark Willis is the negro's name. He cultivated a crop with the assistance of his two boys, about 12 or 13 years old, and has already ginned 10 bales of cotton. In addition to this, he has made enough corn to supply his needs for another year, along with good crops of peas, potatoes, molasses, etc.

In addition to this he made enough corn to supply his needs for the coming year, along with a good crop of peas, potatoes, molasses, hay etc. He raised all the meat he used the past year and has also sold some hogs for which he received good prices.

It is said that this negro moved on the farm five years ago with practically nothing. He now owns his own wagon and teams, riding cultivators, and owns a good automobile. He cleared \$600 this year in addition to his living expenses. It is stated that he sold about \$40 worth of turnips from a quarter acre patch, which had already produced a field crop. He sold \$13.50 worth of turnip greens while thinning out the turnips so they would have room to grow. He has money coming in from several different sources throughout the year. He practices intensive cultivation of his crops and never allows his crops to be overrun with grass and weeds as is the custom of many farmers,

but saves all the plant food available for his produce. He believes in producing all the feed and food crops possible on the farm and this plan has brought him success in his farming operations.

This shows what the soil of Monroe county is capable of doing when intelligently cultivated. The discontent and unemployment, and unrest, prevalent throughout the world, would have little excuse for existence if the idle acre in Mississippi and the Southland were made to produce a harvest such as we have mentioned.

JACKSON, Miss., Friday, November 29, 1929

## Negro Farmer Does Well In Monroe County

Mark Willis, With Assistance of Two Boys, Makes 10 Bales of Cotton, Plenty of Corn, Potatoes, Meat—Sells \$40 Worth of Turnips

## ONE NEGRO WHO KNOWS FARMING

Makes Everything to Eat on the Farm and Money to Put in the Bank

AMORY, Nov. 28—Mack Willis, a colored farmer who lives in the Hamilton community in this county,

Agriculture - 1929

~~Improvement of~~  
~~Negro Farmer~~  
~~Sells First Cotton~~

Missouri.

ANFORD, N. C., September 25.—  
(AP)—Wright Prince, 41, who has  
for a number of years won the honor  
of selling the first bale of cotton in  
Lee county, again received the  
first bale of the season here Friday  
when he sold a bale of cotton to V.  
Stevens of Broadway at 18 cents a  
pound.

Prince is one of the best farmers  
in this state and preaches and practises  
the theory of raising foodstuff  
as well as cotton.

**13 COWS NET HIM  
\$208 A MONTH**

~~alone~~  
Cassville, Mo., Sept. 20.—There's  
nothing unlucky about the number 13  
for T. B. Yarnall. Thirteen cows net  
\$208 per month.

Agri. June - 1929  
Improvement of  
California  
Thursday, February 28, 1929

## PASTURE CAMPAIGN PROGRESS AMONG NEGRO FARMERS

Big Banquet at Melville School  
February 28th

The pasture campaign among negro farmers is progressing nicely. Orders have been placed already for more than one ton of grass seeds. If you are interested in planting a pasture, get in touch with us. No doubt you have land that is too wet for cultivated crops, that would make splendid pasture if seeded with the right mixture.

As a climax to our campaign we are staging a banquet at the Melville school, (near Swepsonville) on Thursday evening, February 28th, at 7:30 o'clock. The Home Demonstration Club will serve you at 50c per plate.

Come one, come all, bring your wife or friends. Let's make this annual event, a big one among our farmers. A splendid program has been arranged for the evening.

J. W. Jeffries, Local Agent  
C. S. Wilson, Home Agent

Times  
March 28, 1929

## NEGRO FARM OPERATORS IN STATE.

Cabarrus county between the years 1910 and 1925, inclusive had a very small increase in negro farm operators, S. H. Hobbs, Jr., shows in a recent issue of The University News Letter. The number of these negro operators in Cabarrus in 1925 was 121, an increase of 1.6 per cent. over 1910. There was an increase in 65 counties, and the Cabarrus increase was almost the smallest of all the 65 counties. In 35 counties there was a decrease.

However, in the State as a whole there has been a large increase and Mr. Hobbs predicts that if the 1910-25 trend has continued we are ahead of all the States except Mississippi. North Carolina increased her farms during the 1910-25 period faster than all the other States except

three; she increased her farm tenants faster than any other State except one, and she led all the States in increase of negro farmers. In fact the increase of farms was very largely an increase of farm tenants and negro farmers.

During the 1910-25 period North Carolina, with a net gain of 15,310 farms operated by negroes, had the largest increase of negro farmers of any State. The second largest increase was in Texas, Georgia, Alabama, Mississippi, and South Carolina experienced large losses of negro farmers, due to the ravages of the boll weevil. Many of these negroes moved to North Carolina, which has not been so hard hit by the boll weevil, and which has a second crop attractive to negroes and suited to tenancy—tobacco.

Between 1910 and 1925 thirty-five counties in the State lost negro farmers, while sixty-five gained, the net gain being 15,310, as has been stated. The thirty-five counties experiencing decreases are eighteen mountain counties, seven tidewater counties and ten others in the western half of the State. These thirty-five counties had a loss of 2,961 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties in which negro farms increased had an increase of 17,371 negro farmers. The sixty-five counties experiencing increases almost without exception grow either cotton or tobacco, or both crops. The largest numerical increases were in Nash with a gain of 1,169, Pitt 1,143, and Edgecombe 826 negro farmers. These are three adjoining counties in the very heart of the combination cotton-tobacco belt. The largest per cent gain was in Washington with 93.3 per cent. The largest per cent. decrease was in Graham with 94.1.

During this fifteen-year period, for the entire state, farms operated by whites increased from 188,069 to 202,516, an increase of 7.6 per cent. The farms operated by negroes increased from 65,656 to 80,996, or an increase of 23.3 per cent. In other words, the rate of increase of negro farmers was slightly more than three times the rate of increase of white farmers. The farms operated by negroes in 1925 were 28.5 per cent. of all farms in the State, the ratio having risen from 25.8 per cent. in 1910.

The negro farmers who own their farms are 27.3 per cent. of all negro farmers. The ownership ratios are highest in

## North Carolina.

the western part of the State, and lowest in the combination cotton-tobacco belt. In other words, negro farm tenancy and negro population density and ratios are highly correlated. The larger the negro ratio the higher the rate of negro tenancy.

In 1925 there were 80,996 farms in the State operated by negroes. While we rank fifth in negro farmers, there is really only one State, Mississippi, that has a much larger number than North Carolina. We are close behind Georgia, Alabama, South Carolina and Texas.

### Cause For Alarm

From the Elizabeth City (N. C.) Independent

Negro ownership of farms in North Carolina shows an alarming increase. The net increase of Negro farm owners in North Carolina for the ten year period 1910-1925 was 15,310. North Carolina farms are passing into the hands of Negro farmers at the rate of 3,000 a year.

I am this increase in Negro farm ownership alarming because the plight of agriculture in North Carolina today is too many backward farmers. The white farmers in North Carolina taken as a whole are a backward lot. The Negro is generally several steps behind the white man.

The average Negro in his laudable desire to own land and establish his citizenship too often impoverishes both himself and the land in the effort to acquire the land. He can't improve the soil; he has put all in the acquisition of it and thenceforth for years to come it is a struggle for him to get a living out of the soil, with nothing to put back into the soil. The result is less productive farm lands, a retarded agriculture.

Nothing is going to stop the Negro from farm ownership. He finds a pride, a satisfaction and a sense of security in the ownership of a farm that few white men can understand or appreciate. And he is going to continue to reach out for more and more farms. As more and more white farmers move into towns, more and more Negroes will move on to the farms. White owners when they decide to sell their farms are not averse to finding Negro buyers, for Negroes keep up their payments. A Negro may neglect his store account or a cash financial obligation, but he will meet his payments on real estate. A larger and larger increase in Negro farm ownership in North Carolina is inevitable.

What then can North Carolina do about it? North Carolina must pay more and more attention to its Negro farmers, providing if possible even better farm demonstration work and home demonstration work for Negro farmers than for white farmers. An intelligently operated Negro farm and a clean, wholesome Negro farm home is an economic asset just the same as a white operated farm and home. Since the Negro in North Carolina has gone determinedly into the business of farming, his labors should have the most intelligent direction the State can give him.

Times Enterprise  
Friday, February 8, 1929

## Advise On Home Or Farm Purchase

S. B. Simmons, State Vocational Supervisor. Talks at A. and T Chapel Period

Greensboro, N. C. Jan. 31st—  
S. B. Simmons, State Supervisor of Vocational Agriculture among Negroes spoke on "Where to Buy a Farm or Home", at the A. and T. College Chapel exercises today in the fourth of a series of talks observing Negro Farm and Home Ownership Week.

The most important decision a farm has to make is the choice of his farm, the speaker declared and warned of the necessity for buying in place where there is immunity from floods and destructive storms. Other factors entering are the length of the growing season, character of the soil, topography of the land, kind of crops grown and yields over a period of years. Further consideration should be given to labor supply, transportation conditions, and market facilities.

communities with good roads schools, electric power, mail delivery and other modern conveniences should be heavily favored over backward communities. Farmers have found it to be to their advantage to buy land where taxes are not too high, where neighbors are progressive and where city organizations are anxious to aid the farmer to secure the best results.

Calling attention to the difficulties which Negroes are facing in some cities in planning residence developments, for their race, Professor Simmonds, declared member of the race must approach this problem seriously.

He noted that in a city the home location should be made only in communities where advantages of water, light, gas, paved streets, fire protection, storm drainage and the like are available. Only in cash com-

Over \$90 in premiums were awarded to negro farmers in Halifax County at the recent hog and hominy show held in Enfield by the local agent, R. J. Johnson.

Times  
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communities will residence property factor in deciding where to live, he concluded. The attitude of the neighbors and the healthfulness of the community should be important

April, 1929

## Improvement

### PASTURE CAMPAIGN PROGRESS

#### AMONG NEGRO FARMERS

##### Big Banquet at Melville School

February 28th

The pasture campaign among negro farmers is progressing nicely. Orders have been placed already for more than one ton of grass seeds. If you are interested in planting a pasture, get in touch with us. No doubt you have land that is too wet for cultivated crops, that would make splendid pasture if seeded with the right mixture.

As a climax to our campaign we are staging a banquet at the Melville school, (near Swepsonville) on Thursday evening, February 28th, at 7:30 o'clock. The Home Demonstration Club will serve you at 50c per plate.

Come one, come all, bring your wife or friends. Let's make this annual event, a big one among our farmers. A splendid program has been arranged for the evening.

J. W. Jeffries, Local Agent

C. S. Wilson, Home Agent

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What then can North Carolina do about it? North Carolina must pay more and more attention to its Negro farmers, providing if possible even better farm demonstration work and home demonstration work for Negro farmers than for white farmers. An intelligently operated Negro farm and a clean, wholesome Negro farm home is an economic asset just the same as a white operated farm and home. Since the Negro in North Carolina has gone determinedly into the business of farming, his labors should have the most intelligent direction the State can give him.

1929

S. B. Simmons, State Vocational Supervisor, Talks at A. and T. Chapel Period

Greensboro, N. C. Jan. 31st—

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Messenger

March 7, 1929

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communities will increase in value, he concluded. The attitude of the neighbors and the healthfulness of the community should be important.



Agriculture - 1929

Improvement of

## MILK COWS IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1928

### The Counties Ranked According to Persons per Cow

The following table, based on the recent issue of Farm Forecaster issued by the crop reporting service of the State Federal Department of Agriculture, gives the number of milk cows of milking age in each county and the ratio of milk cows to population. The counties are ranked according to the latter factor.

*Chapel Hill, N.C.*

In 1928 there were, according to the report, 275,454 milk-cows of milking age in the state. This is equivalent to one cow for each 10.2 people. The range among the counties is from one cow for each 2.3 persons in Alleghany county to one cow for each 164.0 persons in Dare. In nine counties there were no more than five persons for each cow; at the other extreme there were nine counties in which there were more than 25 persons per cow.

Department of Rural Social-Economics, University of North Carolina

| Rank | County     | Milk cows of milking age 1928 | Per. sons per cow |
|------|------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 1    | Alleghany  | 3,155                         | 2.9               |
| 2    | Clay       | 1,504                         | 3.5               |
| 3    | Ashe       | 5,858                         | 3.9               |
| 3    | Watauga    | 3,699                         | 3.9               |
| 5    | Macon      | 3,242                         | 4.1               |
| 6    | Davie      | 3,323                         | 4.2               |
| 7    | Graham     | 1,059                         | 4.7               |
| 7    | Jackson    | 2,931                         | 4.7               |
| 9    | Henderson  | 4,144                         | 4.8               |
| 10   | Madison    | 3,950                         | 5.1               |
| 10   | Randolph   | 6,197                         | 5.1               |
| 12   | Tyrrell    | 917                           | 5.2               |
| 13   | Avery      | 1,915                         | 5.4               |
| 13   | Chatham    | 4,616                         | 5.4               |
| 13   | Cherokee   | 2,980                         | 5.4               |
| 13   | Yadkin     | 3,178                         | 5.4               |
| 17   | Caswell    | 3,005                         | 5.5               |
| 17   | Wilkes     | 6,340                         | 5.5               |
| 19   | Orange     | 3,553                         | 5.7               |
| 20   | Mitchell   | 1,999                         | 5.9               |
| 20   | Stokes     | 3,552                         | 5.9               |
| 22   | Haywood    | 4,215                         | 6.0               |
| 23   | Lincoln    | 3,072                         | 6.1               |
| 24   | Alexander  | 2,002                         | 6.2               |
| 25   | Caldwell   | 3,326                         | 6.3               |
| 25   | Person     | 3,228                         | 6.3               |
| 25   | Polk       | 1,560                         | 6.3               |
| 25   | Yancey     | 2,786                         | 6.3               |
| 29   | Davidson   | 6,326                         | 6.4               |
| 30   | Union      | 5,810                         | 6.6               |
| 31   | Iredell    | 6,031                         | 6.8               |
| 32   | Cleveland  | 5,524                         | 7.0               |
| 33   | Alamance   | 4,981                         | 7.2               |
| 34   | Camden     | 721                           | 7.5               |
| 34   | Montgomery | 1,791                         | 7.5               |
| 36   | Burke      | 3,240                         | 7.7               |
| 36   | Hyde       | 1,079                         | 7.7               |

### North Carolina

|     |             |       |       |
|-----|-------------|-------|-------|
| 76  | Halifax     | 2,853 | 17.3  |
| 77  | Harnett     | 1,763 | 18.2  |
| 78  | Forsyth     | 5,523 | 18.6  |
| 79  | Greene      | 998   | 18.9  |
| 80  | Duplin      | 2,370 | 19.5  |
| 81  | Cumberland  | 1,916 | 20.5  |
| 82  | Nash        | 2,198 | 21.5  |
| 83  | Columbus    | 1,428 | 22.0  |
| 84  | Scotland    | 704   | 22.4  |
| 84  | Wayne       | 2,262 | 22.4  |
| 86  | Craven      | 1,394 | 23.0  |
| 87  | Beaufort    | 1,350 | 23.1  |
| 88  | Bertie      | 1,064 | 23.3  |
| 88  | Onslow      | 653   | 23.3  |
| 90  | Robeson     | 2,625 | 23.4  |
| 91  | Brunswick   | 612   | 24.9  |
| 92  | Chowan      | 591   | 27.2  |
| 93  | Edgecombe   | 1,436 | 30.1  |
| 94  | Pitt        | 1,574 | 32.0  |
| 95  | Martin      | 700   | 33.6  |
| 96  | Lenoir      | 1,028 | 34.5  |
| 97  | Carteret    | 461   | 36.4  |
| 98  | Wilson      | 1,028 | 48.1  |
| 99  | New Hanover | 552   | 87.1  |
| 100 | Dare        | 33    | 164.0 |

| Rank | County      | Milk cows of milking age 1928 | Per. sons per cow |
|------|-------------|-------------------------------|-------------------|
| 51   | Cabarrus    | 8,985                         | 10.0              |
| 52   | Anson       | 3,025                         | 10.1              |
| 53   | Stanly      | 3,207                         | 10.3              |
| 54   | Bladen      | 1,997                         | 10.5              |
| 55   | Gaston      | 5,315                         | 10.9              |
| 55   | McDowell    | 1,772                         | 10.9              |
| 57   | Pender      | 1,349                         | 11.0              |
| 58   | Lee         | 1,328                         | 11.4              |
| 59   | Northampton | 2,046                         | 11.7              |
| 60   | Moore       | 2,016                         | 12.5              |
| 61   | Gates       | 883                           | 12.7              |
| 61   | Guilford    | 7,710                         | 12.7              |
| 61   | Pasquotank  | 1,449                         | 12.7              |
| 64   | Rockingham  | 3,914                         | 13.0              |
| 65   | Vance       | 1,979                         | 13.1              |
| 66   | Jones       | 813                           | 13.4              |
| 67   | Richmond    | 2,252                         | 13.6              |
| 68   | Pamlico     | 644                           | 14.0              |
| 69   | Hoke        | 927                           | 14.3              |
| 69   | Wake        | 5,966                         | 14.3              |
| 71   | Sampson     | 2,847                         | 14.5              |
| 72   | Washington  | 785                           | 14.9              |
| 73   | Durham      | 3,184                         | 15.1              |
| 74   | Johnston    | 3,500                         | 15.9              |
| 75   | Hertford    | 1,052                         | 16.2              |

Agriculture-1929  
Improvement of

Russia.

### **RUSSIA TO DOUBLE ITS COTTON CROP**

A gigantic undertaking about to be entered upon by the Soviet Government should be of special interest to our Southern States. By means of an irrigation project, the greatest yet undertaken in Europe, and one of the greatest of modern times, the vast area of the parched Golodnaya Steppes in Turkestan will ultimately be turned into fertile country which is to be planted in cotton. In this way the present cotton output of Turkestan, which already grows 50 per cent. of the cotton used in Soviet Russia, will be doubled.

An American engineer, Arthur Powell Davis, formerly head of the Bureau of Reclamation at Washington, is directing this project. Mr. Davis gave out the details of the undertaking to newspaper men recently, stating at the same time that 250 millions of dollars would be spent in this stupendous work. He described the terrain to be irrigated as an even greater area of barren ground than that comprised in Death Valley in California. Mr. Davis's plan is to divert the waters of two great rivers, the Amudaria, the longest stream in Asiatic Russia, and the Sidaria. According to Mr. Davis, these rivers together will supply 10,000 cubic feet of water per second to an area which is ideally suited to cotton culture.

In view of the fact that at present 50 per cent. of Russia's cotton is raised in the United States and Egypt, this Soviet enterprise will arouse great interest among American planters and business men. That it should be undertaken under the direction of an American engineer, employed by the Soviet Government as consultant engineer, is a dramatic feature and one more indication among many of the steadily growing business contacts between the United States and Russia, in spite of the fact that the Soviet Government continues to be denied diplomatic recognition at Washington.

Agriculture - 1929

Improvement of  
Greenwood, S. C., Index-Journal

Wednesday, January 6, 1929

NEGRO FARMER

BEATS WEEVIL

Jim Hill Gathers 36  
Bales From Four  
Plows Last  
Year

Jim Hill, colored farmer, may not have made the outstanding record for the county as a cotton farmer last year, but he at least did a great deal better than the "average run" of farmers.

Jim, with the help of his son and another assistant, made 36 bales of cotton with four plows as a tenant for the Bank of Greenwood on what is known as the Thomas Chiles place, near Chiles' Cross Road, about two miles below Bradley. This is an average of nine bales to the plow and is more than double the usual yield from one plow, according to the records.

Jim's record is outstanding also in the fact that on the very farm he worked in 1928 only six bales were made by a former tenant in 1927. Jim has the reputation of being a hard worker and uses modern methods in farming, paying strict attention to poisoning the boll weevil. In addition to his cotton he also made large feed crops.

This record is not given as THE record of the county because, since the Index-Journal learned of his crop, unofficial information has come that other farmers, below him, near Troy, did even better than nine bales to the plow.

The Index-Journal will be glad to publish other yields and establish the county's champion for the past season. Until correct statistics are received Jim will hold the belt.

South Carolina.

## Champion Cotton Grower of S. C.



This picture shows James Preale, young South Carolina farmer, who produced one bale and a half of cotton to the acre in 1928 at a profit of \$103.00.

NEWS

Florence, S. C.

NOV 24 1929

FLORENCE COUNTY'S BLACK  
DIAMOND

Chesterfield County has a negro to buy and automobile. This writer is not familiar with the Chemistry involved, but it has been suggested that the Iodine may have been deposited in the soil of South Carolina when and as the ocean receded from the mountains the Iodine content would be greatest at the coast and smallest at the

his children good clothes, as much as he could that they wanted, to this was caused by the island having educate them, but when they asked him to buy an automobile he always said of the sea and the leaving of replied, "You wear good clothes, you fish etc., in the land.

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these things if I am crazy enough might be wise for South Carolina.

to plot the Iodine content of its

farmer who can raise large potatoes. Charlie says that people see tra- vegetables.

Florence County has a negro farm-veiling salesmen riding up and down er living on the road to Pamplin the road in automobiles and they who owns his own land, who hasthink they must travel too. Charlie his 1920 cotton, who doesn't owe says it's the trying to keep up dollar, who has the loudest laughwith other people that makes most we have heard in sometime, whoppeople go in debt and that he uses manages to save money every year his horse and wagon to go where planting corn, cotton, tobacco, ancker he wants to go and figures that potatoes; who is happy and con- this doesn't cost him anything.

tent, who has about 12 or 15 bale: Charlie's economic philosophy, we foot of the Mountains. Therefore

of cotton, who is worth severa believe to be sound. if this be true, our coastal sector

thousand dollars net, and who would be the largest in Iodine con- tent and our vegetables would be

strange as it may seem, has neve owned an automobile.

"CUNNING IS BETTER THAN  
STRONG"

Charlie began farming as a share-cropper and saved his money, h' time was trying to spit into kind- told us. Finally, he bought his farm and, as he says, will continue to his mouth parched, out of breath and his whole body exhausted, an automobile. He told us that he stood panting as an old, negro therefore, for the Coastal section of made a rule, when he could, to give named Charlie approached along the South Carolina to have a Publicity

path. Upon request Charlie took the axe and with seemingly little effort and a few well directed blows readily split the stump. Whereupon Charlie handed over the axe and said, "Cap'n, cunning is better than strong."

Recently the Natural Resources Commission of South Carolina was organized to promote the interests of the State. Its work centered first on the Iodine content of vegetables and fruits of this section. This we believe has great possibilities, but who will become Sales Manager so to speak for our Coastal section?

In a recent editorial in The State n discussing Iodine mentioned that some years ago the state of Massachusetts attempted and did plot the negligible amount of Iodine in its vegetables from the coast in Massachusetts to its hill country, and this plotting showed that the highest Iodine content which in Massachusetts is small and in South Carolina great was largest beginning at the coast and was smallest near- the hills. It was believed that

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Expert Sales Manager

Agriculture - 1929

Tennessee

## Improvement of SHELBY NEGRO BOY WINS

Colored Student Grows Two Bales

### Cotton on One Acre.

To a Shelby County negro boy goes the record of producing 1,003 pounds of lint cotton on one acre. Alvertis M. McRae, agricultural agriculture student at Collierville Industrial School, did this. The negro boy entered the All-American Nitrate of Soda Educational Bureau's Contest for Negroes and as a result of his efforts he has won \$25 offered by this bureau as first prize. His good yield makes him the negro junior cotton champion of the state.

This boy began his project on Jan. 1, 1928, by selecting an acre of sandy loam land that had been in cultivation a long time that no one could remember when it had not. This level acre had been in corn the year before. In April the land was turned to a depth of six inches and then harrowed. The rows were made three feet apart and a home mixture of 200 pounds of superphosphate (acid phosphate), 100 pounds of nitrate of soda and 100 pounds of kainit was drilled in the rows. A bed was made on the drilled rows and these were harrowed. Cultivation consisted of cross harrowing, side harrowing, sweeping and chopping twice. When the cotton was spaced the plants were left two and three to each hill about 12 inches apart. On June 13 the acre of cotton was side dressed with 100 pounds of nitrate of soda, and on July 18 the crop was laid by.

He sold two bales for \$180.79 and 2,000 pounds of seed for \$40. His expenses were, rent of land \$5; seed \$2; fertilizer \$8.75; hired labor \$28, and horse labor, \$5.90; a total cost of \$49.65. His labor income was \$171.14 for 181 hours of work.

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## ~~Improvement of~~ COOPERATIVE MARKETING SCHEME

The proposed movement to organize the Negro farmers of the country into a cooperative marketing association, is worthy of the earnest consideration of every black tiller of the soil in the United States, and it is to be hoped that the effort will meet with success.

This is an age of cooperative effort and the colored farmer, the least protected productive unit in America, will improve his status to a marked degree and become more prosperous and successful if he will learn and practice the lesson of cooperative marketing.

The man, whether on the farm or in business, who essays to operate individually rather than collectively will discover ultimately that he is making very little, if any, headway.

Realizing the power of organization, the farmers of the other race maintain associations for their mutual benefit, and much substantial progress is being made by them as a result of such organized forces and protective movements.

How to sell the product, whether agricultural or mercantile, is the problem now facing the Negro farmer and business man; while the latter is also faced with the elephantine problem of cooperative buying.

The Negro farmer, in this connection, should diversify his crops and produce more green vegetables and other farm products which always have a ready market, and which can reduce the cost of living for the farmer and his family, by providing much of the food consumed by his immediate household.

In speaking of the National Federation of Colored Farmers, President James Perry Davis of Indiana and a former Georgian, says:

"We want 25,000 Negro farmers to enter our cooperative organization this year. By elimination of the middleman and encouragement of diversified planting, we will create a new market which will revolutionize the Negro farmers' income. . . . Few people realize the tremendous potentiality of the Negro farmer. The white farmer has long ago seen the necessity for cooperative action. We have adequate financial support and invite Negro farmers everywhere to join this movement."

### TEXAS AND REVOLUTION

Texas, according to The Houston Post-Dispatch, is now surrounded on every hand by revolution, what with the turmoil in Mexico, Oklahoma and Louisiana.

Texas may not itself be troubled with revolution, but is one of the contributory causes to an economic revolution which is inevitable in cotton States east of the Mississippi. Of this we are reminded by another editorial in The Post-Dispatch, which is as follows:

If the world ever decides to use more cotton, it need have no fear of not being able to get the ~~more~~ desired. Texas has given a demonstration of what it can do in the way of cotton production in the last year, and without trying to set any records. The fact is, in spite of the known fact that a reduction in output would be favorable to prices, the State produced 700,000 bales more in 1928 than in 1927. Nearly every county in the State reported an increase in the yield. Texas would feel proud of the accomplishment, if it were not for the guilty conscience. Less and not more production is regarded as the salvation of the Southern cotton farmer. When the largest producing State fails to hold down production, it is small wonder that the little States producing around a million bales or more feel they haven't had a square deal. But, at least Texas can take pride in its ability to produce cotton. Where is there another county in the United States which can produce 122,923 bales of cotton in a single season as Ellis County did in 1928? Is there a county outside of Texas that can produce 111,905 bales as Williamson County did last year? Texas had four counties that produced more than 100,000 bales each in 1928, McLennan reporting 110,912 bales and Hill 101,995 bales. Wharton, San Patricio, Runnels, Nueces, Navarro, Milam, Limestone, Kaufman, Lamar, Hunt, Hall, Fort Bend, Fannin, Falls, Collin, Caldwell, Bell, each produced in excess of 50,000 bales. Total ginnings in the State for the past season are given by the Census Bureau as 5,937,455 bales. With very little effort, Texas could increase that figure by one-third or one-half.

States east of the Mississippi will not abandon cotton, but already they have learned that they must adjust their production to the situation caused by the competition of Texas, Oklahoma and Arkansas cotton fields. In those States cotton can be grown in greater abundance and at less cost per acre than it can anywhere east of the Mississippi; and the disadvantaged States are feeling the pinch. They must reform their methods.

# Ames, Tex., Is Monument to Thrift of Farmers

[Chicago Defender Press Service]

Liberty, Tex., Oct. 14.—Seldom has the Race produced a greater monument to its stability and growth than the town of Ames, located on the Old Spanish Trail and Southern Pacific railroad, three miles east of town.

Nestling on the fringe of the famed trail that is known to all travelers, Ames presents a picture of prosperous growth and contented agricultural development where less than a decade ago nothing but prairie land greeted the eye.

The majority of those who reside in this area came to Texas from Louisiana during the past four years and they took land that had been looked upon as not being very productive, although it is of a virgin black composition.

From a beginning of one or two

## HARRIS COUNTY FARMERS WILL STAGE EXHIBIT

Harris County annual farmer's meeting will convene at Odd Fellow's Temple, Prairie and Louisiana, Sunday evening, May 5, 3 o'clock. The general subject, "Back To the Farm," will be explained to the public by concrete demonstrations, viz:

"By Way of the Dairy, Cows, Hogs and Poultry," Oscar Spiller, Joe McKinney; "Fairbanks, By Way of Trucking," Henry Easter of Little York, E. Wilkerson, Brays Bayou and Samuel Lee of Westfield; "By Way of Canning," Jake McAllister, Crosby; "By Way of the Irish and Sweet Potato Production," Walter Page and H. S. Henderson; "By Way of the Mississippi; and the disadvantaged States are feeling the pinch. They must reform their methods.

L. G. Luper, county demonstration agent, says: "We are inviting the citizens of Houston to witness this

experimental farm, the Ames area has developed until today the prosperous farm lands have built up a village, peculiarly their own, with stores, cucumber station and other institutions.

An early pioneer farmer in this territory was D. Fontenot, considered one of the richest Race farmers in the South.

The land is given mostly to cotton and corn, with a small acreage devoted to truck products.

Cucumbers make a fine pick-up crop and there is a cucumber station at Ames, where the cucumbers are placed in brine and shipped to Waco.

Ames is an "all Colored community" and its every interest and activity is concerned with this group. One of the finest Catholic churches in Texas fronts the Old Spanish Trail as a recent addition to the town.

The Ames section is considered one of the most prosperous sections of the entire country.

concrete program that will be presented to you by your rural brethren of Harris County. Every laboring man of Houston should see and hear these demonstrations presented by the farmers. Don't forget that the farmers are the backbone of civilization. Come and cooperate with them."

Mrs. A. G. Hall is home demonstration agent for Harris County.

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# DAIRY SCHOOL IS POPULAR WITH FARM PEOPLE OF THIS BLACKLAND COTTON SECTION

Demand For Vocational Agriculture Instructors Increasing  
In State; Forty Additional Teachers  
Will Be Needed Next Year.

By ETHEL J. ROE.

There is something inspiring in the sight of boys and girls as they study the lessons assigned them. But when in the same school room meet men and women, some with graying hair and others in the strength of youth, when fathers and mothers and sons and daughters come together to learn practical lessons, lessons which when applied will increase the family income and raise the degree of family efficiency—that is a sight that will do honor to any school room in Texas.

Such a school recently was conducted in the Thrall community, with Professor Porter C. Gentry, superintendent of schools and vocational agriculture teacher, acting as director of a 10-lesson course in dairying, and 35 pupils taking the work. The ages of the pupils ranged from 16 to 60, and the sex was not confined to the males of the species alone, for two women, Mrs. A. D. Wickstrom and Mrs. V. G. Carlson, were there to learn more about dairying. The earnest-faced boys of the agricultural classes sat side by side with their dads and mothers who were just as earnest in their efforts to learn, and perhaps more so, for increased knowledge to water. A well made magazine rack them meant better living conditions and incomes for them and their families.

## A Dairy Section.

Thrall is located in the rich blackland cotton-growing section of Texas and formerly was the center of extensive oil operations. But the air is quiet now; the put-put of the drilling engines is replaced by the crowing of roosters, the cackling of hens, and the mooing of cows heard faintly from outlying farms. The smell of oil is gone and the fresh earthy odor of new ploughed ground fills the air. And the people are content that it should be so. This progressive community was one of the first in Texas to purchase a registered Jersey club sire, and as a result there are many fine cattle on the farms thereabout. Oil wells may mean dry holes or shallow fields, but the dairy business, built upon knowledge and carried on in a businesslike way will never prove a dry hole or a shallow field.

the 300 vocational agriculture teachers who are employed in various sections of the state. Among them are upwards of 100 negro teachers. The fact that negroes are being trained in agricultural knowledge is a hopeful one. Formerly the negroes lived on the farms and learned the various phases of farming, but in recent years with the single-crop cotton system which largely obtains in Texas, the negroes are used on the farms only at chopping and picking seasons, and for the remainder of the time they are housed in the cities, often in undesirable sections and under poor living conditions. With the teaching of agricultural work to the negroes, it is to be expected that our farm labor will increase in knowledge and efficiency.

The vocational agriculture work in Texas is financed by local, state and government funds. Only the actual number of hours used in teaching agricultural subjects are paid for, half of

the teacher's salary is paid by local funds and the other half is paid by the state and federal government sharing equally. Last year there was appropriated for this work by the state \$72,000, which, with the federal funds made \$144,000 and this matched with local funds would make approximately \$200,000 spent for this work last year. The demand for agricultural training is increasing, according to Prof. C. L. Davis of the vocational agriculture division of the department of education and about 40 more teachers will be used next school year.

## Learn by Doing.

"The people here would not think of being without vocational agriculture work," says Professor Gentry. "They have doubled the time I am to give to the work here next year. The boys we are training will be the future farmers of Texas and good ones, too."

I am reminded here of the old schoolmaster in "Nicholas Nickleby," Dickens' well known book, who got the work of his school done by requiring his pupils to spell a word and then go and "do it." Thus when windows was the word, it must first be spelled and then the windows washed; horses must be spelled, and then the horse curried and fed, and so on through the list. But instead of the figure of fun that he formerly appeared, the old schoolmaster may have been a creature of the author's brain that was in advance of his generation. For truly we learn to do by doing.

That vocational and industrial courses should be offered rural children is evident. And the district which is able to employ a special vocational teacher is a fortunate one, indeed, for not only are the children taught, but the grownups as well, as in the case of the Thrall section. To organize the abilities and resources of a rural district is like bringing electricity out of the air and converting it into light and power to move the wheels of commerce.

## Negroes Learning.

That Texas is training boys to become men of this type is proved by

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Improvement of

Virginia.

By combining diligence and dexterity, one farmer in this section has been unusually successful in getting results out of his efforts, and if getting results is the aim of good farming then he is a good farmer.

That tiller of the soil is M. B. Poole, of Surry county, who makes Smithfield his home. Mr. Poole does farming on a big scale. Two of his sons operate one of his two farms while he and another son operate the other.

Mr. Poole is not adverse to the latest ideas and trends in agricultural practice. In fact he is always receptive to modern methods, and readily gives them a trial on his farm.

And thus it is that he gets results where many others do not succeed. At the recent joint rally of the 4-H clubs of five counties in Surry county, Mr. Poole had on exhibit some of the products from his farm. One was a head of cabbage weighing eighteen pounds. Peanuts, corn, and other products exemplary of the highest type of farming, were also on exhibit.

Mr. Poole says that his success is not a matter of luck but one of hard work combined with intelligent cultivation.

Aside from his farming duties, Mr. Poole also conducts an embalming business in Smithfield.

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Labor Conditions.

**RECORD**

Biloxi, Miss.

Mississippi.

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**NEGROES ON THE MOVE**

Every since the close of the cotton picking season it has been noted that on our highways there were countless trucks and wagons filled with household plunder being moved from one place to another, some going east, some going west, some going north and some going south, all looking for newer and better jobs. If it was a lean year the moving of tenants would not have been so noticeable, as when crops are not so good, money not so plentiful the negro stays where he was from the fact he did not make enough money to pay his landlord and he has to remain and till the soil again, but if the crop is good and is sold at a fair price, the tenant has made "his," paid his landlord, and is seeking new fields, and you never hear of a landlord wanting to keep the tenant unless his is an exceptionable good one. Yet there are tenants who have been with their landlords for many, many years, for they are treated right, made money and are satisfied.